Pre-Operations Report

Operation Name: Rogers Break
County: Washington
Management Basin: Rogers

Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	Moderate Partial Cut	321	306
2	Moderate Partial Cut	58	55
Total	**Partial Cut Harvest**	**379**	**361**
3	Modified Clearcut	70	57
Total	**Regeneration Harvest**	**70**	**57**

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:

Slopes are typically less than 40% with a range of 5% to 65%. Elevation ranges from 1,100 feet to 2,000 feet. Aspect is variable from north to east. The entire area was burned in the 1933 Tillamook Burn and again in the 1945 fire.

The landform is a gentle to moderate sloping small ridge that divides Devils Lake Fork, South Fork Gales Creek, Gales Creek and Low Divide Creek. The underlying rocks are mostly sedimentary of the Yamhill formation with intrusive igneous origin rock in both Area 1 and Area 2.

II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

The sale area has been inventoried using the Stand Level Inventory (SLI) procedure. The stands in Area 1 and Area 3 are classified as UDS. Area 2 is 67% CSC and 33% UDS.

The overstory of all the stands is comprised almost entirely of Douglas-fir, with minor amounts of hemlock, redcedar, and hardwoods. In areas highly infected with *Phellinus*, there is more species diversity, and a higher abundance of snags and down woody debris. The understory across all areas is comprised mostly of dwarf Oregon grape, salal, vine maple, bracken fern, and sword fern. Average ground cover is estimated to be 75%.

Stand Level Inventory (SLI) cruise data indicates that there is approximately 10 snags per acre, averaged across the sale area. An average of 2 snags >= 24 inches per acre, and 1 hard snag, exists across the sale area. SLI also indicates that approximately 5000 cubic feet per acre of down woody material exists. Approximately 90 percent is of decay class 3-5.

The entire sale area has been surveyed for *Phellinus weirii.* The results indicate severe infection throughout the sale area, and a particularly high amount in Area 3.

Table 2. Stand Inventory Information

Area	Prescription	Stand ID [1]	Species	Age[4]	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Net Acres [2]
1	PC-M[5]	7694	DF	41-44	16	246	169	62	69
		7710	DF	39-44	15	193	159	50	211
		7750	DF	36-43	17	174	115	43	20
		8286	DF	47-57	19	214	114	51	6
		Target [3]	*DF*		*19*	*140*	*75*	*34*	*306*
2	PC-M	7725	DF	36-45	17	196	132	49	27
		7751	DF	41, 48-55	15	215	170	55	10
		7760	DF	39-41, 48-50	15	226	176	58	18
		Target [3]	DF		*19*	*140*	*75*	*34*	*55*
3	MC	7750	DF	36-43	17	174	115		57

[1] The source of stand inventory information is from SLI inventory grown to 2005.
[2] The acres are based on GIS and exclude existing and planned roads, stream buffers, green tree retention areas, and non-thinnable areas.
[3] The Target identifies expected stand characteristics (DBH, BA, TPA and SDI) after harvesting has been completed.
[4] Actual measured breast height ages are shown unless labeled "est."
[5]PC-M is Moderate Partial Cut, MC is Modified Clearcut

III. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION/VISION:

According to the Forest Grove district's landscape design, the desired future condition (DFC) for Area 1 is 28% OFS and 72% GEN. Area 2 is 100% GEN, and Area 3 is 100% GEN.

The ground vegetation across the sale area will be dominated by salal, dwarf Oregon grape, sword fern, huckleberry, and vine maple. Leave trees (mostly Douglas-fir), snags and DWD components will be consistent with FMP strategies. However, in portions of Areas 1 and 2, higher than normal accumulations of snags and DWD is expected. These areas have severe *Phellinus* and will not be treated in the next entry.

In portions of Areas 1 and 2 with DFC-GEN, final harvest of the stand could likely occur approximately 15-20 years post harvest. The condition of the stand at that time will be UDS. The understory will be well developed because of the numerous gaps in the overstory from naturally occurring *Phellinus* pockets and the previous thinning. It will be comprised mostly of cedar, western hemlock, minor amounts of noble fir, and other tree

species. Many of the understory trees will become the future stands overstory. Hemlock, and noble fir will have a more dominant presence than the once Douglas-fir dominated stand. The largest pockets of *Phellinus* will likely be planted with alder.

In portions of Area 1 with DFC-OFS, management begins by thinning the overstory. A well established understory will be created with the opening of the canopy after thinning and the naturally occurring *Phellinus* pockets. 15-20 years later another entry may be prudent to keep the stand on its path to OFS. An entry at this time will maintain a healthy understory and the continued vigor of the overstory. Treatment of *Phellinus* will be evaluated again and may be dependent on the occupancy of the currently existing owl circle.

Area 3 will have a final harvest age of 45-55 years. The stand will be in a UDS condition with an overstory dominated by alder and a minor component of Douglas-fir and other species. After the alder is harvested (45-50 years post-harvest), the site will be capable of supporting Douglas fir and other conifer species and will be free from *Phellinus*.

Table 3. Stand Structure Information

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest [1]	Desired Future	Net Acres
1	7694	UDS	UDS	GEN	9
				OFS	60
	7710	UDS	UDS	GEN	205
				OFS	6
	7750	UDS	UDS	GEN	8
				OFS	12
	8286	UDS	UDS	OFS	6
2	7725	CSC	UDS	GEN	27
	7751	CSC	UDS	GEN	10
	7760	UDS	UDS	GEN	18
3	7750	UDS	UDS	GEN	57

[1] The stand is expected to develop into this condition in the five to ten years after this operation is completed, except in REG stands which occur after harvest.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION AND PATHWAY:

Areas I and 2 will be a Moderate Partial Cut to a SDI of 34. Area 1 will have a target residual stand of 140 ft^2 of basal area and average diameter of 19 inches.

Area 3 is a modified clearcut. Only Douglas-fir will be selected for harvest. Leave trees will be scattered and in clumps. Selected leave trees will be the most dominant trees and in areas with no evidence of *Phellinus*.

An application of herbicide prior to planting will kill the heavy component of brush which existed prior to harvest. This will ensure a successful establishment of alder. The alder will then be pruned and thinned as deemed necessary until final harvest.

Average estimated additions of down wood through normal logging slash accumulations will be approximately 100 ft^3 per acre.

V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE OUTPUTS:

Table 4. Timber and Revenue

Ownership		Sale Type	
BOF	CSL	Cash	Recovery
100%	0%		X
Planned Quarter:		1-4	

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	5,200		5,200
Stumpage Value ($/MBF)	$425.00		
Estimated Gross Value	$2,210,000		$2,210,000
		Project Costs:	$295,000
		Estimated Net Value:	$1,915,000

VI. HARVESTING AND ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS:

The sale areas can be accessed via Rogers Camp Road, Beaver Dam Road and Firebreak One Road. These are currently all weather, crushed rock roads. Most of the timber will have a designated hauled route out the Rogers Camp Road. This should minimize any impacts and increase safety to the heavy recreational users in the area.

To allow for sale access 3.3 miles of spur roads will be constructed and surfaced at an estimated cost of $198,000. Improve 0.8 miles of road at an estimated cost of $32,000. Rock will be mined from the Browns Camp Pit. Total project costs, including recreation project costs, are estimated to be $295,000.

Roads will be predominately ridge top and gentle slope locations, and no stream crossings. The roads are necessary to access the ridge tops and timber in all parts of the sale area. The 0.8 miles of improved road will be on parts of the Rogers Camp Road and Firebreak One Road.

All sale spurs will be blocked at the conclusion of the sale.

Logging is estimated: 20% ground based and 80% cable.

Table 5. Transportation Management Summary (Miles)

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construction	0	0	3.3	0
Improvement	0	0	0.8	0
Maintenance	0	4.5	4.1	0
Vacation	0	0	4.1	0

VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:

Several small seasonal and perennial Type N streams, tributaries of Gales Creek, occur within the sale boundaries. Vegetation along these streams varies from purely conifer to hardwood/conifer mix. All streams are within the Forest Practices Act Interior Zone. The FMP riparian strategies will be applied.

Seasonal hauling restrictions will be applied in order to protect the water quality on all streams along the haul route. Restrictions may include limiting the number of loads hauled per day, not hauling during periods of heavy moisture, or having an alternate haul route.

VIII. WILDLIFE AND T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:

The sale areas have been reviewed with the ODF Northwest Oregon Area Biologist (Area Biologist).

Rogers Break is being surveyed for spotted owls due to the presence of potentially suitable spotted owl habitat within and adjacent to the timber sale area. Suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of Rogers Break has been surveyed in 2002, 2003, and 2004 in association with this sale and other proposed timber sales in the vicinity.

There were no responses detected during the 2002 surveys.

In 2003, a female spotted owl was heard during two separate nighttime surveys. The owl was not located during the daytime follow-up visits, and there were no further responses during the three additional surveys conducted in 2003. The response locations were approximately two miles apart and were considered too distant for a resident activity pattern. Therefore, the status of the observation was classified as "non-territorial single" in 2003.

In 2004, a female spotted owl was heard between the 2003 response locations. The owl was not located during the daytime follow-up visits, and there were no further responses during the three subsequent surveys conducted in 2004. Three spotted owl observations in that area within two years of survey resulted in the establishment of an activity center and “resident single” site status.

A portion of Rogers Break is within the 1.5-mile radius circle around the spotted owl activity center. Approximately 166 acres of Area 1 and 54 acres of Area 2 are within the circle. A Biological Assessment (BA) is being prepared by the Area Biologist and will be reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in accordance with the Agreement for the Conservation of Northern Spotted Owls (2001).

The owl circle and the 1.5-mile survey area around Rogers Break were surveyed in 2005. There were no spotted owl responses. The area will be surveyed again in 2006.

Surveys for marbled murrelets are not required, due to the absence of potentially suitable habitat within the sale area. The ODF wildlife biologist for the NW Oregon Area made the determination that the sale area is non-suitable habitat for marbled murrelets.

This operation does not involve an activity that is listed in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) adopted rules under Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act. Neither the sale area nor the haul route is in close proximity to a stream with listed fish.

The sale areas were checked against the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ONHP) database of known listed plant locations, as well as against local records in the Land Management Classification System (LMCS). No listed plant records were identified within or adjacent to the sale areas.

IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:

There are nearly no steep slopes in the sale area. The initial hazard and risk assessment from the geotechnical specialist is low. If during field work high landslide hazard locations are identified the geotechnical specialist will be consulted to determine if a field visit is needed.

X. RECREATION RESOURCES:

The sale area is designated as Motorized in the Tillamook State Forest Comprehensive Recreation Plan (1993). The District Recreation Coordinator has reviewed this sale, and suggests:

The sale is within a focused recreation use area and is surrounded by various hiking trails and OHV trails, specifically the Rogers Camp Road, Firebreak One, Mark's Trail and the Crooked Bridge Trail. A certain amount of impact to the trail system is inevitable. However, much consideration will be given in order to minimize this impact as much as is deemed appropriate. Examples of steps taken may include; breaking the sale into smaller areas which have timing restrictions, designating specific haul routes, rehabilitating trails, etc..

Much of the portion of the Rogers Camp Road Trail on the southeastern edge of Area 1 will be posted outside the sale area. A spur road will be constructed along a small section of this trail. The road will be built to minimum specs and will improve the existing

condition of the affected portion. The current condition of the said portion is very wet and highly prone to erosion and contributing to stream sedimentation. There is no concentrated trail but a series of trails that weave in and out of each other. Trails that stray from the main trail and or road will be closed.

Trail improvement along portions of the Rogers Camp Road Trail will be included in the project work. Work may include grade relocation, establishing drainage features, and rocking. Improvement is estimated to be 0.5 miles at $20,000 per mile. Estimated cost is $10,000.

Project work will also include the crushing and stockpiling of 3,000 cubic yards of 6" minus, pit run, trail quality rock. Rock will be stockpiled at the Browns Camp stockpile location. Estimated cost is $30,000.

Portions of Firebreak One road are designated as OHV trail. Because portions will be improved along this road, a new trail around the existing road will be included in project work. Work may include grade construction, culvert or drainage feature installation, and rocking. New trail construction is estimated to be 0.75 miles at $20,000 per mile. Estimated cost is $15,000.

There are some trails that currently exist, but are not designated as trails. Many of these types of trails will be blocked at points where they intersect logging roads. Some may need to be evaluated by the recreation department to determine their value and if portions need to be maintained or kept open for use. Project work will allow 60 hrs of equipment time to block, rehabilitate, or improve designated sections of these trails. Estimated cost is $10,000.

Total Project Costs for Recreation is estimated to be $65,000.

XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The sale area and proposed road construction right-of-way were checked against the Tillamook State Forest Cultural Resource Inventory Database (GIS format). No cultural resource records were identified within or adjacent* to the operation areas. If any significant cultural resources are located during sale preparation, the Public Use Coordinator (ODF Salem Staff) will be consulted regarding potential protection measures.

*****Adjacent refers to approximately one tree length from an operation area. For the purpose of this screen, a 200 foot buffer around the sale boundary and proposed road construction right-of-way was assessed for cultural resource locations.*

XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:

The sale area is in a landscape of Moderate Visual Sensitivity (Level 2). Visual management considerations have been taken. The prescription will leave a residual stand which will have no negative visual impacts from the Highway.

XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:

None of significance.

XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:

Areas 1, 2, and 3 contain Focused and Special Stewardship, Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Subclass, due to the presence of perennial streams within the sale areas. See Section VII, Aquatic Resources and Water Quality, for the management guidelines to be utilized. The three sale areas are Focused Stewardship, Recreation Subclass. See Section X, Recreation Resources, for the strategies that will be implemented to minimize impacts to trail resource. Area 1 contains Focused Stewardship, Visual Subclass. See Section XII, Scenic Resources, for a discussion of scenic considerations. Areas 1 and 2 contain Special Stewardship, Operationally Limited Subclass. The Geotechnical Specialist will conduct an onsite evaluation of the sale areas for slope stability. See Section IX, Slope Stability and Geotechnical Issues for further discussion.