

# Pre-Operations Report

**Operation Name:** Round Rice  
**County:** Washington  
**Management Basin:** Wheeler/Gales Creek

**Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres**

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	Modified Clearcut	102	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>Regeneration Harvest</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>94</b>
2	Moderate Partial Cut	146	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>Partial Cut Harvest</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>107</b>

## **I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:**

Slopes have a varied aspect and range from 10 to 60%. Elevations range from 1,600 to 2,000 feet. The major soil types are Killam and Grindstone. The sale extends from the ridge tops to the lower slopes adjacent to Step Creek.

The landform has moderate slopes on a spur-ridge between the headwaters of North Fork Gales Creek, Step Creek and Coffee Creek. The underlying rocks are sedimentary rock, mostly sandstone, of the Nestucca and Cowlitz Formations.

## **II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:**

The sale area burned in the 1945 Tillamook Burn.

All of Area I has been inventoried using the Stand Level Inventory (SLI) procedure. These stands have been classified as CSC (23%) and UDS (77%). 66 acres (62%) of Area 2 have been inventoried using the Stand Level Inventory (SLI) procedure. These stands have been classified as UDS. The remaining stand is classified as CSC (32 acres) and UDS (9 acres) according to the Current Condition map that appears in the Forest Grove District Implementation Plan (*March 2003*).

The sale area is comprised of medium to well stocked Douglas-fir and scattered mixed conifer with patches of red alder and big leaf maple. The majority of the understory consists of vine maple, sword fern, salal and dwarf Oregon grape.

SLI data for Stands 7591 and 8285 shows that there are an average of approximately 10 snags per acre and 1,963 ft<sup>3</sup> of DWD. The snags and DWD are in classes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

**Table 2. Stand Inventory Information**

Area	Prescription	Stand ID <sup>1</sup>	Species	Age <sup>4</sup>	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Net Acres <sup>2</sup>
1	MC <sup>3</sup>	8284	DF,WH	44-46, 58-69	18	301	173	73	72
	MC	8285	DF	38-45	16	228	165	58	22
2	PC-M <sup>3</sup>	7571*	DF,WH	43 est.	16	213	153	54	41
	PC-M	7586	DF,CX	44-49, 70	18	252	150	61	26
	PC-M	7591	DF	44-50, 68	14	218	195	58	35
	PC-M	8284	DF,WH	44-46, 58-69	18	301	173	73	5
		<i>Target<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>DF, CX</i>		16	140	100	35	107

<sup>1</sup>The source of stand inventory information is from SLI grown to 2005. Stand ID shown with (\*) is expanded SLIP information based on similar stands as of 9/30/2005.

<sup>2</sup> The acres are based on GIS and exclude existing and planned roads, stream buffers, green tree retention areas, and non-thinnable areas.

<sup>3</sup> PC-M is moderate partial cut, MC is modified clearcut.

<sup>4</sup> Actual measured breast height ages are shown unless labeled "est."

<sup>5</sup> The Target identifies expected stand characteristics (DBH, BA, TPA and SDI) after harvesting has been completed.

### **III. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION/VISION:**

According to the Forest Grove District's landscape design for the Wheeler basin, the desired future condition (DFC) for Area 1 is 100% General. The DFC for Area 2 is 61 % General and 39% OFS.

#### Area 1

This will be planted with a mix of conifer species, predominately Douglas-fir, and managed for timber production. Retaining some green trees, creating snags, adding down woody debris, planting a variety of tree species will provide habitat for early seral wildlife species between harvest intervals. It is anticipated that the newly established plantation will be scheduled for precommercial thinning at approximately age 15, and commercial thinning at approximately age 40 before the next modified clearcut harvest at age 60. The stand will move through the REG, CSC, and UDS conditions between harvest intervals.

#### Area 2

This will have a second entry thinning in 2019 with the prescription's focus being the development of OFS. A third entry partial cut may be necessary around 2050 when Area 1 is scheduled for a first entry partial cut.

**Table 3. Stand Structure Information**

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest <sup>1</sup>	Desired Future	Net Acres
1	8284	UDS	REG	GEN	72
	8285	CSC	REG	GEN	22
2	7571	CSC	UDS	OFS	32
		UDS			9
	7586	UDS	UDS	GEN	26
	7591	UDS	UDS	GEN	35
	8284	UDS	UDS	GEN	5

<sup>1</sup> 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:**

##### Area 1

This Area is a Modified Clearcut (MC).

Area 1 will be managed to develop into a commercially viable stand that should be available for a commercial thin by 2050, followed by a modified clearcut in 2070. Following harvest, the tractor ground will be reviewed to determine if mechanical site preparation is warranted to facilitate the planting of mixed conifer seedlings.

Western red cedar will be reserved from harvest to contribute to the Green Tree Retention. Remaining Green Tree Retention requirements will be met by leaving other tree species in stream buffers and scattered clumps.

Two Douglas-fir trees per acre will be topped to create hard snags. The created snags must have a DBH of at least 18 inches, and be at least 60 feet in height.

These methods will be used in combination to meet the green tree requirement in the Forest Management Plan (FMP) and provide snags and DWD to the stand. All existing DWD will be reserved in the sale areas. Recruitment of additional DWD is expected through mortality, windthrow of residual trees, felled snags, and logging slash. Existing snags determined not to be a safety hazard will be retained and any felled snags will be left for down wood. Additional snags will be created over time through natural processes.

##### Area 2

This Area is a Moderate Partial Cut.

The harvest operation of this Area will continue the development of UDS structure in the short term by thinning the stand to an SDI 35. In addition to the residual overstory trees required to meet the SDI 35 target, all trees less than 8 inches, western red cedar, and hardwoods shall be retained. This prescription

will provide more light and nutrients to promote the continued vigor of the understory. Through subsequent partial cut entries understory development can be maintained promoting multiple stand layers and increasing biological diversity.

Two trees per acre shall be topped to create hard snags and be evenly distributed throughout the Area. The created snags must be Douglas-fir and have a DBH of at least 18 inches, and be at least 60 feet in height.

This will provide snags and DWD to the stand. All existing DWD will be reserved in the sale areas. Recruitment of additional DWD is expected through mortality, windthrow of residual trees, felled snags, and logging slash. Existing snags determined not to be a safety hazard will be retained and any felled snags will be left for down wood. Additional snags will be created over time through natural processes.

**V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE OUTPUTS:**

**Table 4. Timber and Revenue**

Ownership		Sale Type	
BOF	CSL	Cash	Recovery
100%	%		X
Planned Quarter:		3	

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	4,970	30	5,000
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	\$400	\$400	
Estimated Gross Value	\$1,988,000	\$12,000	\$2,000,000
		Project Costs:	\$61,000
		Estimated Net Value:	\$1,939,000

**VI. HARVESTING AND ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS:**

Approximately 1.1 miles of road will be constructed to provide access to cable landing locations. The new construction is limited to ridge tops and is estimated to cost \$55,000. The newly constructed roads will not cross any perennial streams.

In addition, approximately four miles of existing spur roads will be closed or vacated at an estimated cost of \$6,000.

All haul roads will have high quality crushed rock or pit run surfacing. Roads will provide access to all timber within the sale area and allow for logging methods and hauling which will minimize impacts to soils, streams, and riparian areas.

The two harvesting methods that will be utilized for this sale are highlead cable and ground based yarding.

**Table 5. Transportation Management Summary (Miles)**

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construction	0	0	1.1	0
Improvement	0	0	0	0
Maintenance	0	3.5	2.1	0
Closure/Vacation	0	0	4.0	0

**VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:**

71 acres (76%) of Area 1 and 48 acres (45%) of Area 2 are within the Lousignont/Upper Nehalem basin. This basin has been designated as a Salmon Anchor Habitat (SAH) Basin. SAH Basin Strategies will be applied for this portion of the sale during the timber sale layout and contract development.

Step Creek, a small type F stream, flows between Area 1 and Area 2 in the north half of the sale. There are a few unnamed small perennial and seasonal Type N streams within the sale area.

Stream buffers within the harvest unit boundary and Salmon Anchor Habitat (SAH) will be managed according to SAH guidelines. The SAH riparian areas will be reviewed during sale layout for operational constraints to meet or exceed SAH strategies.

During sale layout, all streams will be field verified as to size, type, location, and/or source.

Riparian area stand types along these streams are a mix of conifer and hardwood.

Stream buffers within harvest unit boundaries outside of the SAH will be managed according to FMP Riparian Strategies. 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.

In order to protect water quality during active operations, a variety of methods will be used to prevent sediment from entering live streams. These methods include (but are not limited to) maintaining culverts and other road drainage structures, using sediment control devices in road ditches when necessary, and seasonal restrictions on logging and hauling operations. Culvert installment and replacement in live streams will be conducted between July 1 and September 15. Operations outside of this period will be reviewed with ODFW.

### **VIII. WILDLIFE AND T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:**

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

Surveys for northern spotted owls were conducted in 2005 due to the presence of potentially suitable spotted owl habitat within and adjacent to the timber sale area. Round Rice was surveyed for spotted owls three times in 2005 with no responses, and the second year of survey will be completed in 2006. All surveys were/will be conducted in accordance with USFWS protocol.

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 scattered steep slopes in Area 1 and the south portion of Area 2, but the down slope risk appears low on the USGS topographic map. The initial hazard and risk assessment from the geotechnical specialist is moderate. If a concern arises during sale layout the geotechnical specialist will be consulted.

### **X. RECREATION RESOURCES:**

The sale is designated as Non-Motorized in the Tillamook State Forest Comprehensive Recreation Plan (1993).

### **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 has a low sensitivity visual classification of Level 3.

**XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:**

The property lines have been true blazed and posted.

All known survey corners and witness trees shall be protected from damage during any operations.

**XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:**

Areas 1 and 2 contain Focused and Special Stewardship, Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Subclass, due to the presence of perennial streams within the sale areas. Both sale areas contain Focused Stewardship, Wildlife Subclass, because parts of these areas are within the Lousignont Creek/Upper Nehalem River Salmon Anchor Habitat (SAH). The sale areas also contain Focused Stewardship, Domestic Water Use Subclass. The municipal water intake for the community of Timber is located downstream from the sale area on the Nehalem River. See Section VII, Aquatic Resources and Water Quality, for the management guidelines to be utilized.