

Pre-Operations Report 2007 Sale

Operation Name: London Beary
County: Josephine
Management Basin: Rogue

Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	Partial Cut	37	35
2	Partial Cut	54	48
Total		91	83

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:

The London Bear parcel is a 91 acre rectangular piece of Board of Forestry land. This area is within the Mixed Evergreen vegetation zone on the east-side of the Siskiyou Mountains. Douglas-fir predominates, with minor inclusions of pine and evergreen hardwoods such as Pacific Madrone, Tanoak, and Canyon Live Oak.

Slopes range from 30%-70%. Aspects are westerly (Area 1) and northerly (Area 2). Elevations range from 1,200-2,120 feet. The underlying rock units are of sedimentary and volcanic origin; Jurassic period.

Soils in the sale area mainly consist of the Josephine (48F) and Speaker-Josephine (72F) gravelly loams. These soil units are moderately deep, well drained, and may be susceptible to water erosion and slumping.

II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

Overstory: These stands are Douglas-fir (DF) and Madrone dominated. The overstory is DF. Stand 5260 has 12" DF while 5261 has larger 16" DF. The overall stand density is high, while the conifer density is scattered and patchy.

Understory: The understory covers 10-13% of the ground with a variety of shrubs, herbs, and grass: hazel, oceanspray, sword fern, serviceberry, and grasses. Stand 5261 has 45% covered in shrubs and trees less than 15 feet tall, while 5260 has 16% in this category.

Snags: For stand 5260 there were 2.35 Madrone snags per acre in the 20" size class. Area 2 has 2.5 snags per acre over 12"; half are conifer and half are hardwood.

Down woody debris: The amount of large down woody debris in Area 1 is 720 cu. ft per acre in classes 1-5. The amount of large down woody debris in Area 2 is 1770 cu. ft per acre in classes 1-5. This is above the amount OFS threshold.

Current Stand Structure: The sale area is 100% Closed Single Canopy. Stands are high density allowing little light to reach the forest floor where understory vegetation is scarce.

Insects and disease: There are no indications of any insect or disease problems in the sale area.

Table 2. Stand Inventory Information

Area	Prescription	Stand ID ¹	Species	Age 06	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Acres ²
1	PC	5260	DF, MA	40	10" (DF)	212	371	64	37
		Target ³	DF		12	120	152	35	
2	PC	5261	DF, MA	49	12	153	190	64	54
		Target ³	DF		14	100	93	26.5	

¹ The source of stand inventory information is SLI from the year 2002. All trees over 5.6 inches.

² The acres shown above are gross GIS acres including roads, but excluding type 5262 (non-silv capable).

³ The Target identifies expected stand characteristics (DBH, BA, TPA and SDI) after harvesting has been completed.

III. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION/VISION:

Area 1 is a dense stand of conifer and Madrone with an average Douglas-fir DBH of 10". Area 2 is similar, but has larger dominant Douglas-fir trees at 16". Area II has variability in the current stand type. Some portions of the sale will need to be thinned and other portions will be left untreated as they are exhibiting characteristics of the desired future condition: a more open stand with an overstory of larger trees. Portions of this stand will need to be thinned to reduce competition and the fire hazard. Table 3 shows the DFC for these stands. Stand 5261 will meet the DFC after harvest and stand 5260 will return to CSC over time.

Table 3. Stand Structure Information:

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest ²	Desired Future	Acres
1	5260	CSC	UDS	CSC	37
2	5261	CSC	UDS	UDS	54

¹ The forest management plans for these districts do not contain structure strategies.

² The stand is expected to develop into this condition in the five to ten years after this operation is completed.

Vision:

The desired future condition of these stands is CSC (5260) and UDS (5261). Thinning them will give flexibility for this direction or other paths. The stands can go from CSC to UDS after the sale, and from there, either CSC, LYR, or REG, depending on future treatments. For 5260, I see the stand with reduced Madrone densities, allowing better growth for the DF. For 5261, I see a stand with large dominant overstory trees and less intermediate and codominant competition.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the following stand management treatments is to reduce moisture stress and competition lowering the risk presented by disease and wildfire, and to raise revenue for the Counties by removing a small amount of timber. Thinning will help reduce interspecies competition and stress on the trees helping to prevent beetle outbreaks and disease. Creating better spacing between crowns and removing suppressed trees will help prevent fire from reaching the canopies and killing the dominant overstory trees.

Desired Silvicultural Results: The commercial prescription will primarily be thinning across diameter classes to a desired spacing to remove the suppressed, intermediate and some of the codominant trees from these stands. An upper diameter limit will be established to preserve the largest and healthiest trees in the stands. Density management will increase growth and development of the overstory and understory. Thinning these stands will increase the health and vigor of the residual conifer and hardwood trees as well as reduce the likelihood of insects, disease, wildfire, or other stand replacing events. Approximately 10% of the sale area will remain in unthinned patches at least 1 acre in size. These unthinned patches will be randomly left throughout the sale area. The largest and healthiest trees will be left throughout the sale, as well as any trees that have the Old Growth characteristics of rough bark, large limbs and deformed tops. Some of the Madrone trees will be retained for layering. Opportunities to create small ¼ to one acre openings will be explored during sale layout. These patch cuts provide an opportunity to leave extra down wood. Openings greater than ½ acre will be interplanted while those less than ½ acre will be left to naturally develop. This combination of partial cutting and group selection emulates the natural processes behind the development of LYR and OFS stands. See Partial Cut Target Stand in Table 2.

Snags: An estimated 1 to 1.5 snags per acre will occur as a result of logging and natural mortality. The sale will be assessed after logging to see whether it is necessary to create more hard conifer snags. It is likely that an additional 1 snag per 2 acres will be created by tree topping or girdling in the sale area. All pre-existing snags that are not safety or fire hazards will be retained. Any snags that are felled will be retained for down woody debris.

Down woody debris: Approximately 100 cu. ft./acre of class 1 debris will be added through normal logging operations including trees that are damaged and eventually blow down and cull log segments required to be left on the ground. Additionally any time a stand is opened up from management activities the possibility of isolated blow down or top breakage exists. No yarding of down woody debris will be permitted.

Insects and disease: The sale will focus on removing the trees that have the smaller, less developed crowns, poor vigor and thus are more susceptible to insects and disease.

Fuels Modification: Residual slash, tree tops and limbs, will be burned if unacceptable accumulations remain after harvest.

Regeneration: Regeneration from seed will occur naturally as a result of the thinning, especially in group selection areas. Replanting may occur in small openings created from logging.

V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE OUTPUTS:

The volume is based on SLI numbers and an estimated 3 thousand board feet per acre over 83 acres net. The project costs are for road improvement and road brushing.

Table 4. Timber and Revenue

Ownership		Sale Type	
BOF	CSL	Cash	Recovery
100%	0%		X
Planned Quarter:		3	

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	83*3.5M=291	0	291
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	\$275		
Estimated Gross Value	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000
		Project Costs:	\$10,000
		Estimated Net Value:	\$70,000

VI. HARVESTING AND ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS:

Access: Access is through a Brushy Gulch Road to the 34-6-6 road. The road crosses private ownership for 1.2 miles at its start and BLM for 2.5 miles before reaching State Lands. The road is rocked but will need brushing.

Harvesting: The sale area is about 95% cable logging. The sale has slopes up to 70%. The sale is off of a rocked road and may be winter loggable.

Table 5. Transportation Management Summary (Miles)

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct				
Improve				
Maintain				
Close/Block				0.1
Vacate				0.1

* For determination of road class, either use results of the Harvest and Habitat roads classifications, or if this information is not available then low use roads are spurs, medium use roads are collectors and high use roads are mainlines. Use these same criteria when comparing the total for all AOP sales to the IP.

VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:

Area II may have a perennial stream. The slope would make it highly unlikely to have the presence of fish. Surveys will be conducted during sale layout to determine the status of the stream. The stream will be protected according to the SW Forest Management Riparian Guidelines.

VIII. WILDLIFE AND T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:

Northern Spotted Owl: The SOA Wildlife Biologist has determined that the sale area may be suitable for Northern Spotted Owls due to the age and size of the trees. Surveys for NSO's have taken place in 2004-2005 and will continue in 2006. As a result of these surveys, 2 northern spotted owl sites have been identified within 1.3 miles of this sale.

A biological assessment will be prepared by the ODF SOA Biologist to assure that the appropriate measures are taken to provide sufficient habitat on the landscape as required in the Department adopted Incidental Take Guidelines as well as any seasonal restrictions necessary to prevent disturbance during the nesting season.

Marbled Murrelet: This sale is outside the known inland range of the marbled murrelet and will not require surveys.

Threatened and Endangered Fish: There are no known listed fish present in streams near the sale area. The streams will be posted according to the Southwest Oregon Forest Management Plan riparian management area rules. For additional protection measures to prevent sediment from entering perennial streams see Section VI – Harvesting and Access Considerations, Section VII – Aquatic Resources and Water Quality, and Section IX – Slope Stability and Geotechnical Issues.

Threatened and Endangered Plants: The sale area was checked against District knowledge for any listed plant location as well as the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ONHP) database of known listed plant locations.

IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:

Slopes max out at about 70%. A hazard assessment of slope stability will be conducted by a Geotechnical Specialist.

X. RECREATION RESOURCES:

There are no developed trails or facilities in close proximity to the sale.

XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

A pre-sale reconnaissance revealed no significant cultural resources in the sale area. A mountain-bike glove was found in the middle of the gravel road.

XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:

The Visual Classification is rated as Level III – Low Sensitivity.

XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no other resource considerations within or adjacent to the sale area.

XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:

Table 6. Land Management Classification Summary

Area	LMCS Subclass	Focused Stewardship	Special Stewardship
1	Aquatic & Riparian	11	
2	Aquatic & Riparian	26	<1

This table summarizes the acres of Focused and Special Stewardship within the operations. The acres each operational area in this table do not necessarily add up to its gross or net acres, because of overlapping classifications under the Land Management Classification System. For example, a particular acre can be classified as Focused Stewardship for Aquatic and Riparian, Recreation, and Scenic resources.

ATTACH Biologic Assessments (where necessary)

ATTACH MAP