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WESTERN LANE DISTRICT

2007 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This operations plan covers all state-owned forest land managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry in Lane County.

The *NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan* calls for active forest management to produce a desired array of stand structure types across the landscape. In Lane County, long-range desired future condition targets are to produce and maintain approximately 40 percent of the forest in complex layered and older forest structure stands that include large trees, a multi-layered canopy, diverse understory vegetation, snags, down wood, and other key habitat features.

The activities and projects described will be designed to achieve the goals, strategies, and objectives of the *NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan* and the *Western Lane District Implementation Plan*. This Annual Operations Plan is divided into five major categories: Integrated Forest Management, Planning Activities, Information Systems, Public Information and Education, Administration, and Appendices. A summary of the results of the public involvement process will be added to the final plan.

The management activities planned for FY 07 are based on the range of objectives established in the *Western Lane District Implementation Plan* (Table 1), as well as the assumption that budget allotments will be similar to 2006. Sale planning continues to be heavily affected by northern spotted owl habitat protection.

Harvest Levels: In accordance with the guidance on the 2007 harvest levels¹, the district has included 8.7 MMBF of timber harvest in this Annual Operations Plan (Table A-1 of the AOP Summary Tables document). This harvest level is consistent with the district's intensive review² of the outputs from the Department's recently completed Harvest and Habitat Model Project. The district is transitioning to the mix of clearcut and partial cut

¹ *Establishing harvest levels in FY07 on State Forests covered by the NW and SW Oregon State Forest Management Plan.*

² *Model Solution Review Report of the 'Forest Management Plan with Habitat Conservation Plan' alternative.*

acres identified in its review of the model outputs. However, the acre mix identified during the model review could not be fully implemented in this plan because of operational considerations, such as the completion of surveys for threatened and endangered species.

The timber sales listed will be auctioned any time between the fall of 2006 and the winter of 2007/2008. Harvest may not be completed until 2011. The other activities listed in the AOP are planned to be accomplished in FY 2007.

Table 1. Annual Operations Plan (AOP) objectives compared to annual objectives identified in the 2001 Western Lane District Implementation Plan (IP) Table A-1. IP objectives are gross acres and AOP objectives are net acres.

Silvicultural Activity	IP Annual Objective		2007 AOP Objective
	Low	High	
Conifer Partial Cut	0	500	190
Conifer Clearcut	0	280	200
Hardwood Partial Cut	0	0	0
Hardwood Clearcut	0	0	0
Rehabilitation	0	0	0
Reforestation (Initial Planting within Clearcuts)	0	350	83
Precommercial Thinning	0	300	250
Fertilization	0	2000	0
Pruning	0	0	0

INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Timber Harvest Operations

Overview of Timber Harvest Operations

The following planned commercial forest management activities meet the requirements of the *Western Lane District Implementation Plan*. Tabular summaries and detailed pre-sale reports for each planned timber sale are attached.

The Harvest and Habitat model averages for the Period 1 and Period 2 shows 47% clearcut and 53% partial cut. This AOP has 49% clearcut and 51% partial cut. The harvest prescriptions are within the District Implementation Plan ranges for clearcut and partial cut.

At the current rate of harvest, about 14% of the State forest in the district will have had harvest activity of any sort during the July 2001 thru June 2010 ten year Implementation Plan period.

Be aware that only limited reconnaissance has been conducted on the proposed FY 2007 sales and that boundaries, volumes, and prescriptions may be modified as field work progresses. And this winter's storms may have caused blowdown that will need to be salvaged in lieu of preparing some of the sales listed.

Table 2. Stand Structure Development – This table summarizes how the Timber Harvest Operations in this AOP will contribute to achieving the district's desired future condition. All values are in net acres.

Stand Structure	REG	CSC	UDS	LYR	OFS	GEN ¹
Current	0	0	331	59	0	
Post Harvest ²	200	0	190	0	0	
Desired Future				0	147	243

Regeneration (REG) Closed Single Canopy (CSC) Understory (UDS) Layered (LYR)
Older Forest Structure (OFS) General (GEN)

1. General (GEN) is not a stand structure, but identifies those stands that are not targeted for Layered or Older Forest Structure in the district landscape design. These stands may develop into any of the five stand structures.
2. The Post Harvest stand structure is an estimate of how the stands will develop within five after the operations are completed.

The 2007 AOP does not change the acreage of management activity designed to produce LYR'ed development. It remains at 679 acres – about 30% of the acres operated on 2002-2007. 2007 is the first year that activities have been planned in areas targeted for future Older Forest Structure (OFS). The 147 acres being actively managed for OFS amounts to about 10% of the acres operated on 2002-2007.

Summary of Operations by Basin

Table 3. Summary of Timber Harvest Operations in each basin. All values are in net acres. Values do not include R/W cut within partial cuts or outside harvest units.

Basin	2007 AOP		Cumulative Operations ¹ (FY 02–07)	
	Partial Cut	Clearcut	Partial Cut	Clearcut
Lane County	190	200	1416	819

1. The Cumulative Operations include all Timber Harvest Operations, prepared and proposed, under the current implementation plan period (July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2011). Operations or units that were proposed, but have been subsequently dropped, are not included in the total.

The harvest in the future OFS structure areas is as follows:

- Windy Peak #4: All of this sale is to be future OFS. Of the 147 net acres, 122 acres are to be thinned to encourage development of older forest characteristics, and 25

acres of mostly hardwoods are to be clearcut. The goal of the clearcut is to increase the percentage of conifer in the new, multi-species stand to allow a high quality layered structure to eventually develop. The alder in the hardwood stands is nearing the age when it will begin deteriorating and dropping out of the stands.

The harvest in the future GEN areas is as follows:

- South Chicken: Modified clearcut of two units of 70 year old Douglas-fir totaling 101 net acres.
- Vic Tree: Medium thinning of 68 acres of approximately 60 year old Douglas-fir.
- Rhody Ridge: Modified clearcut of 45 to 65 year old Douglas-fir and hardwood that may include a small patch (5 acres of so) of 100 year old conifer and hardwood. The net acreage of the unit is 74 acres.

Forest Roads Management

Overview

The *Forest Roads Manual 2000* describes the vision, guiding principles and practices for road construction and maintenance on ODF managed forest land. This AOP describes four categories of road management activities: Construction, improvement, closure/vacation, and maintenance.

Construction for this period will add 5.1 miles of road to the district road network. Access to all of this new road is controlled by private owners and may be gated.

Table 4. Summary of Road Management Activities. All values are in miles.

	Mainline (High Use)		Collector (Medium Use)		Spur (Low Use)	
	AOP	IP ¹	AOP	IP ¹	AOP	IP ¹
Road Construction	0	0	3.1	0.5-1.2	2.0	1.5-2.5
Road Improvement	0	0	2.8	0.8-1.0	0.6	0.2-0.8
Road Closure/Vacation	0	0	0	0-0.2	0	0.2-0.4
Road Maintenance – District ²	0	NA	25	NA	10	NA
Road Maintenance – Active Operations ³	5.0	NA	10.8	NA	3.6	NA

1. These are annual estimates derived from Table 7-6 (Road Activities for the Western Lane District from FY 2002 through FY 2011) of the 2001 District Implementation Plan. The values above were derived by dividing the values in Table 7-6 by 10.
2. The road maintenance estimates include only the work to be completed during Fiscal Year 2007 by district personnel (vegetation management only) and service contract (heavy equipment contracts). However, the exact amount can not be predicted at this time. Estimates of road maintenance were not made in the Implementation Plan.
3. This is a broad estimate of the road maintenance that may be accomplished during the fiscal year, through active commercial operations. However, the exact amount can not be predicted at this time.

Road Construction

The road construction shown below is discussed in greater detail in the attached Pre-Operations Reports. Refer to these reports for cost estimates and maps showing the proposed road locations. Only limited reconnaissance has been conducted on the proposed FY 2007 sales. Locations and costs may change as field work progresses.

Rebuilding old, impassible, overgrown roads is classed as new construction.

Approximately 5.1 miles of road will be constructed.

- South Chicken: 0.5 miles of spurs and 2.2 miles of collector.
- Vic Tree: 0.6 miles of spurs and 0.9 miles of collector.
- Windy Peak #4: No road construction is planned. However, a couple of very short spurs may be required after further examination.
- Rhody Ridge: 0.9 miles of rocked spur construction. One rocked spur will be extended past the sale boundary to access a future sale.

Road Improvement

Approximately 0.6 miles of spur on Windy Peak #4 will be improved by upgrading drainage and adding rock. Rhody Ridge will improve 2.8 miles of collector by brushing, rocking, improving drainage, and improving grades and alignment.

Road Access Management

Rocked roads are not normally vacated since we want to keep these roads open for forest management purposes and public recreation. Most ODF-controlled roads are ridgetop with little potential for sediment to enter streams.

Access to Vic Tree is controlled by a private gate which is kept locked year around. Access to South Chicken and Rhody Ridge is controlled by private owners and may be gated. Access to Windy Peak is controlled by USFS and BLM and is open to the public.

ODF controlled roads are usually kept open for public use. However, we retain the option of gating if vandalism, neighbor concerns, or excessive road damage from public use becomes a problem in particular areas.

Road Maintenance

Road maintenance is accomplished by timber sale purchasers, through R/W agreements, and by contracting road maintenance. In addition, roadside herbicide application is often done by District personnel. The District does not own heavy equipment such as graders, dozers, or backhoes.

On roads not being actively used for timber hauling, the District practices a low level of maintenance by maintaining drainage and keeping encroaching vegetation in check. No attempt is made to maintain smooth running surfaces. In some instances, rather than incurring the expense of continuously pulling ditches, drive-thru waterbars are combined with outsloping to minimize surface erosion caused by water running down wheel tracks caused by public use.

During periodic road inspections and in the course of normal forestry work we look for areas with potential sidecast failures. If found, fixing these areas will be done as part of timber sale contracts or more immediately as separate road maintenance contracts, depending upon the recommendation of the Area geotech.

Land Surveying

A land surveying contract may be necessary to establish property lines between Federal and State land for Windy Peak #4 and Vic Tree.

Young Stand Management

Rehabilitation

None planned this AOP.

Site Preparation

Site preparation is the activity to create planting spots and/or reduce brush cover to allow planted seedlings and natural seedlings to become established. Site preparation may be slash burning, slash and brush piling, or herbicide treatment. Salmonberry and vine maple are the primary competing species in most areas.

Approximately 90 acres of newly harvested areas will be treated with herbicide to reduce vine maple and salmonberry competition with seedlings to be planted the winter of 2006/07. Treatment may be hand or aerial. However, after logging is completed on sales this year, additional areas may be identified that need site prep the fall of 2006 or the spring of 2007.

Planting

The district reforestation program depends on tree planting supplemented by residual natural seedlings and saplings, hardwood stump sprouting, and natural seeding (which may continue to establish seedlings about 10 years after harvest). All clear cut units are planted with a mix of conifer with Douglas-fir the primary species. Usually 200 to 300 trees per acre are planted (14x14 to 12x12 spacing). 83 acres of initial planting in clearcuts is anticipated. A mixture of conifer species will be used.

Vegetation Management

In some cases, a few years after plantation establishment, competing vegetation threatens the survival of future crop trees. Competing vegetation is usually salmonberry and vine maple. Excess red alder and/or bigleaf maple may also need to be controlled.

About 180 acres of plantation will be hand treated with herbicide to reduce the amount of re-sprouting bigleaf maple and vine maple plus, in some areas, salmonberry or Scotch broom. Some units will be treated with hack and squirt to reduce excessive bigleaf maple competition. Portions of other units will be treated with ground foliar spray. Much of the work will be spot treatment of areas causing severe competition.

Tree Protection

Planted conifer is sometimes clipped off by mountain beavers. In other areas deer or elk may bite off the tips. Occasionally the District may encase seedlings in plastic mesh tubes for protection. The district has not trapped mountain beavers, but may consider doing so in heavily populated areas.

No tree protection or trapping is planned. However, examination this spring may show that seedling protection is necessary in some areas.

Precommercial Thinning (density management)

Thinning stands at age 15 to 18 is a common forestry practice designed to concentrate growth on future crop trees, just like gardeners thinning young carrots. Our current tree planting density and species mix – 200 to 300 mixed conifer per acre – may allow us to forgo precommercial thinning unless considerable natural seeding occurs. However, stands now over 10 years old were usually planted to pure Douglas-fir at 400 to 500 trees per acre. Precommercial thinning may be desirable in many of these stands.

Approximately 250 acres of precommercial thinning is currently planned.

Fertilization

The District has no plans for fertilization in FY 2007.

Pruning

Pruning is the practice of cutting off the lower limbs of young trees to produce knot free lumber in the distant future. The District has no plans for pruning.

Recreation Management

Overview of Recreation Management

ODF-managed land in Lane County is scattered and not adjacent to areas of high recreational interest. However, State land has a low level of hunting, mushroom picking, and backroad driving. Our timber sale activities increase forage for big game and grouse, and our road building improves recreational access. Wood cutting is a popular recreational activity in this District. Whenever we have public access to newly logged units, we offer free wood cutting permits.

Facilities (Campgrounds, View Points, Trail Heads, etc.)

No campgrounds, viewpoints, or recognized trails exist on ODF managed land in Lane County.

Trails

See above.

Forest Land Management Classification

As required under OAR 629-035-0050, Forest Land Management Classifications (FLMCS), and for the purposes of implementing the FMP's forest resource management strategies, all forest lands have been classified within the planning area to describe the types of management that a District will apply to particular areas of the land base, the appropriate range of management activities for these areas and the forest resource or resources the classifications are intended to address. The system identifies when a particular forest resource may need a more focused approach, or possibly an exclusive priority, in management. State Forest Lands are classified into one of three classifications: General Stewardship, Focused Stewardship, or Special Stewardship. Descriptions and methods of the classifications are found in the Forest Management Plan beginning on page 2-56.

Focused and Special Stewardship classifications are further classified into subclasses based upon the existence of forest resources that require some level of supplemental planning and/or modified management practices to help achieve identified goals. Several

subclasses may be assigned to a parcel of land. Where this occurs, the resource requiring the highest level of protection will determine the management approach. A complete list and specific definitions of the subclasses can be found in OAR 629-035-0055.

Total acreage for each classification and subclass can be found in the District IP on pages 4 and 5.

The acreage and boundary lines shown on maps for forest land management classifications are approximate. The information will be updated through watershed assessments, planning for site-specific management activities or site-specific field visits conducted over time. Management activities will be conducted based upon exact areas and locations as determined on the site and will depend upon the conditions that exist on the site.

Land Exchange

None planned

Other Integrated Forest Management Operations

None planned

Planning (and Information Systems)

Below are the significant district-level planning projects currently scheduled for FY 2007.

Stand Level Inventory and Other Vegetation Inventories

Stand level inventory contracts are administered by the Salem staff. These contracts will continue in 2007 with the goal of completed the entire district in a few years.

H&H Project

We expect that ODF will continue to refine the Harvest and Habitat model in FY 2007.

Fish and Wildlife Surveys

Western Lane District has a very active spotted owl and marbled murrelet survey program.

We typically survey 10 to 15 current and potential sale areas each year for spotted owls under ODF contracts or in cooperation with federal agencies. In addition, owl occupancy on all activity centers that affect State land is monitored.

Marbled murrelet surveys are conducted annually on about 10 potential sale areas.

The District has no plans to conduct fish presence surveys in FY 2007. Forest Practices data is used for sale planning.

Table 5. Summary of status of T&E surveys for 2007 AOP sales.

Operation	Species (NSO/MM)	Status
South Chicken	NSO	Two years of surveys completed. Surveys planned for CY 2006. McVey circle.
South Chicken	MM	One year of surveys completed without detections. Surveys will continue in CY 2006.
Vic Tree	NSO	Will be surveyed 2006 & 2007. Not in a circle.
Vic Tree	MM	Will be surveyed 2006 & 2007
Windy Peak #4	NSO	One year of surveys completed. Surveys planned for 2006. Upper Greenleaf, Rock Creek, and bear Creek West circles.
Windy Peak #4	MM	One year of surveys completed. Surveys planned for 2006.
Rhody Ridge	NSO	Surveys planned for 2006 and 2007. Pat Creek & Upper McVey circles

Watershed Assessments

None planned for FY 2007.

Research and Monitoring

Stream and riparian monitoring is being conducted jointly with the State Forests and Private and Community Forests programs on a tributary of Nelson Creek and on the main stem of Knapp Creek. OSU is conducting an amphibian monitoring project on a tributary of Knapp Creek.

Other Planning Operations

None anticipated

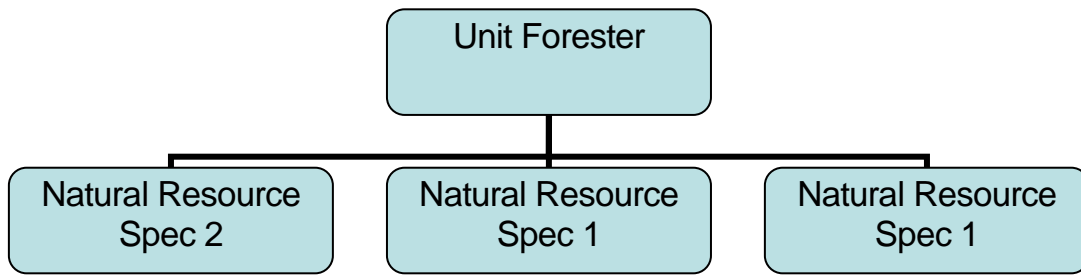
Public Information and Education

Public information and involvement will include public review and comments on the 2007 AOP. In addition, informal public review and comment on all district State Forests management activities on an ongoing basis is expected and welcomed.

Administration

There are currently four full time foresters (Management Unit Forester, Natural Resources Specialist 2, and two Natural Resource Specialist 1's) in the Western Lane District State Forests program. The NRS 2 also acts as the computer systems and GIS specialist for all District programs. The four foresters perform all the tasks normally handled by engineering, marketing, reforestation/young stand management, GIS, T&E, and planning specialists in the larger districts.

The State Forests budget partially funds the District Forester, Office Manager, and Receptionist/Dispatcher. Since there is no Assistant District Forester, the Management Unit Forester performs the State Forests portion of that position.



APPENDICES

A. Summary Tables

B. Pre-Operations Reports

C. Public Involvement

D. Additional Maps