

Pre-Operations Report

Operation Name: Hymes Catch-up
County: Benton
Management Basin: Blodgett

Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres

| Area | Type of Operation | Net Acres |
|-------|-------------------|-----------|
| I | Modified Clearcut | 14 |
| II | Modified Clearcut | 13 |
| Total | | 27 |

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:

This operation consists of two modified clearcut units. The units are in the western hemlock vegetation zone. Soil types are unknown. Average rainfall is between 68 and 78 inches.

The landform is gentle ridgeline and upper slope above Hymes Creek along Shroyer Ridge. The underlying rocks are sedimentary origin rocks of the Tye Formation.

Aspect for both units is south.

II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

Both operation areas support well stocked, 63 year old Douglas-fir trees with some red alder and bigleaf maple trees present, as well. Both operation areas were commercially thinned in the early 1980's.

Some snags and down wood exist in the stands.

Brush species include hazel, salal, Oregon grape, vine maple, and sword fern.

The stand type for both operation areas is Understory (UDS).

Table 2. Stand Inventory Information

| Area | Prescription | Stand ID 1 | Species | Age | DBH | BA | TPA | RD | Acres 2 |
|------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|---------|
| I | Modified Clearcut | 18090 | Douglas-fir | 63 | 22 | 163 | 57 | 35 | 14 |
| II | Modified Clearcut | 18107 | Douglas-fir | 62 | 18 | 181 | 102 | 43 | 13 |

1 The source of stand inventory information is SLI plots.

2 The acres are based on orthophotos and GIS and exclude roads, stream buffers, reserve areas, etc.

III. DESIRED STAND CONDITION:

According to the district's landscape design the operation areas are designated as General and are not intended to become more complex stands such as Layered (LYR) or Older Forest Structure (OFS).

Areas I and II Vision: When the next final harvest occurs in these operation areas, the stands will be approximately 70-80 years old and will be in the UDS condition. At that time, the stands will consist of an overstory of well-stocked, large Douglas-fir with smaller amounts of western hemlock, western redcedar, grand fir, bigleaf maple and red alder. Where there are gaps in the overstory, there will be an understory of hemlock, cedar, grand fir, alder and brush (vinemaple, hazel, salal and Oregon grape). Legacy trees (about 4-6 per acre) left from the first regeneration harvest will be located in small clumps and also scattered across the area. These Douglas-fir trees will average about 40 inches DBH. Both large and small snags and large and small down wood will be located throughout the unit.

Table 3. Stand Structure Information

| Area | Stand ID | Current | Post Harvest 1 | Desired Future | Acres |
|------|----------|---------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| I | 18090 | UDS | REG | UDS | 14 |
| II | 18107 | UDS | REG | UDS | 13 |

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

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:

Areas I and II Anticipated Pathway: This harvest will be a modified clearcut prescription leaving behind about 10-12 green trees per acre that will be greater than 20 inches DBH. The majority of these reserve trees will be Douglas-fir, but some alder and bigleaf maple will also be left. Existing snags that do not pose a safety hazard and all existing down wood will be retained. From the reserve trees, two snags per acre will be created and 600-900 cubic feet of conifer will be felled for down wood.

After harvest, the areas will likely require slash piling. Piles will then be burned. A site prep herbicide treatment will be applied. Prior to planting, mountain beaver will be trapped from the area.

Following completion of site prep activities, the two areas will be replanted with approximately 65% Douglas-fir, 15% western hemlock and 15% western red-cedar and 5% grand fir at a rate of 436 trees per acre. All cedar will be tubed to deter elk and deer browse. Once planting is complete, the operation area will fit the REG classification.

It is likely that at least one herbicide application will be needed within the first 3 years after planting in order to release planted conifer from competing brush. It is also likely that mountain beaver will be trapped again the first year after planting. By age 12 years the stands will have moved from REG to CSC. When the planted trees reach age 12-15, it is likely that PCT will be used to reduce total trees per acre to around 222. The biggest and best trees will be selected to leave, also keeping in mind the desire to leave roughly the same percent mix as was planted.

At approximately age 30 the stands will be commercially thinned to about an RD 35. This thinning will capture harvest volume and will also move the stand on the pathway from CSC to UDS by opening the stand enough to allow vegetation to grow in the understory. Approximately 5-10 years following this thinning, the UDS condition will be achieved.

A second commercial thinning of the areas will be conducted in 10 to 15 years, when the stand RD has reached about 50. Trees will be thinned to about an RD 35. This thinning will capture harvest volume and maintain stand vigor. It will also keep the stand from reverting to CSC. The amount and condition of down wood and snags will be evaluated and more will be created at this time if needed.

In 10-15 years following the second thinning, conifer growth rates will be evaluated and a decision will be made to either conduct a third thinning or to wait until final harvest at 70-80 years old.

V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE INFORMATION:

Table 4. Timber and Revenue

| Ownership | | Sale Type | |
|------------------|-----|--------------------------|----------|
| BOF | CSL | Cash | Recovery |
| 100% | 0% | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| Planned Quarter: | 1 | | |

| | Conifer | Hardwood | Total |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| Net Volume (MBF) | 1,100 | 0 | 1,100 |
| Stumpage Value (\$/MBF) | \$450 | | |
| Estimated Gross Value | \$495,000 | | \$495,000 |
| | | Project Costs: | \$83,000 |
| | | Estimated Net Value: | \$412,000 |

VI. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND HARVESTING:

The operation areas will be harvested from existing unsurfaced roads. Roads accessing the timber sale area go through private timberland for which the STATE has permanent easements.

No new roads need to be constructed. The existing transportation system provides the most efficient access to the timber area. About 0.4 miles of road improvement will be required. Because existing roads already access the sale area, no other harvest alternatives were considered.

Fish distribution surveys will need to be conducted in the Shroyer Ridge area. If Fish presence is verified then some stream crossing structures will be evaluated for possible replacement.

The roads associated with the operation areas will be open to the public during fall hunting season only. Access to these roads for the rest of the year is not available to the public because the route to the operation areas is controlled by an industrial landowner who keeps the gates locked.

All unsurfaced roads will be waterbarred, blocked to vehicular traffic, and grass seeded after harvesting operations are concluded and/or at the beginning of the wet season.

Harvesting timber in the operation areas would require a combination of 50% cable yarding and 50% ground skidding.

Table 5. Transportation Planning Summary (Miles).

| Activity | Mainline | Collector | Rocked Spur | Dirt Spur |
|-------------|----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Construct | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Improve | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.4 |
| Maintain | 0 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0 |
| Close/Block | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.4 |
| Vacate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

* 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 plans.

VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:

There are no streams within the operation areas.

No registered domestic water rights exist in the vicinity of the operation areas.

The operation areas are not in proximity to streams in which listed fish are present.

VIII. T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:

The operation areas do contain suitable habitat for northern spotted owls and surveys were conducted in 2004 and 2005 to protocol with no detections. The area biologist determined that suitable habitat for marbled murrelets did not exist and consequently surveys were not required.

The operation areas were checked against district knowledge for any T&E listed plant location. The operation areas were checked against the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ONHP) database for known listed plant locations. No listed plant records were identified within the operation areas.

IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:

There are no steep slopes mapped in the sale. The initial assessment from the geotechnical specialist is low. If there are any High Landslide Hazard Locations identified during the field work the geotechnical specialist will be consulted.

X. RECREATION RESOURCES:

Recreation consists mostly of hunting.

XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

There are no known cultural resources within or adjacent to the operation areas.

XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:

The operation is not visible from any paved roads.

XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:

There is a permanent inventory plot located in Area I.

XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:

All acres in the operation areas are classified as General Stewardship, there are no Focused or Special classified areas.