

# Pre-Operations Report

**Operation Name:** Table Mountain  
**County:** Lincoln  
**Management Basin:** Scattered Coastal

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

Area	Type of Operation	Net Acres
I	Partial Cut	23
II	Partial Cut	42
Total		65

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

This operation consists of a two partial cut units. The unit is in the western hemlock zone. Average annual rainfall is 100" to 150". The soils in this area are unclassified. The soils in the nearest State Lands that are classified are Valino.

The operation area is located on gentle to moderate slopes on the west side of Table Mountain on a spur-ridge between unnamed tributaries to Drift Creek and Slide Creek. The underlying rock is sedimentary origin rocks of the Tye Formation with very thick sequence of rhythmically bedded, medium- to fine-grained marine sandstone and siltstone.

Aspect is north/south.

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

Areas I and II support dense 75 year old Douglas-fir with some western hemlock, red alder, and a few western redcedar intermixed. There is a small patch of relatively pure hemlock present in the northwest part Area II. There are a few snags and some down wood in both areas. Understory species include some small hemlock seedlings, rhododendron, salal, vine maple, Oregon grape, and sword fern.

The stand type is classified as Understory (UDS).

**Table 2. Stand Inventory Information**

Area	Prescription	Stand ID <sup>1</sup>	Species	Age	DBH	BA	TPA	RD	Acres <sup>2</sup>
I,II	Partial Cut	19025	D-fir	75	19	320	162	73	65
		Target <sup>3</sup>			21	240	100	52	

1 The source of stand inventory information is district inventory plots from 2004.

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

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

### III. DESIRED STAND CONDITION:

According to the district's landscape design, Areas I and II are designated as DFC Complex and are targeted to become Older Forest Structure (OFS).

**Area I Vision:** The OFS stand type will be attained in approximately 40 years. When it reaches the DFC, this uneven aged stand will consist of 115 year old Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and western redcedar in the overstory, 40 year old western hemlock, red alder, western red cedar, and Douglas-fir in the older patch cuts and 20 year old conifers and hardwoods in the newest patch cuts. A lower layer of brush (salal, rhododendron, vine maple, and sword fern) will exist throughout the stand. Sufficient levels of snags and down wood will be present. This stand will remain in the OFS stand type until DFC objectives are met for complex stands at which time it will be available for harvest.

**Area II Vision:** The OFS stand type will be reached in about 50 years. When it reaches the DFC, this uneven aged stand will consist of 125 year old Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and western redcedar in the overstory. The layering component will include multi aged natural hemlock with a few cedar, as well. A lower layer of brush (salal, rhododendron, vine maple, and sword fern) will exist throughout the stand. Sufficient levels of snags and down wood will be present. This stand will remain in the OFS stand type until DFC objectives are met for complex stands at which time it will be available for harvest.

**Table 3. Stand Structure Information**

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest <sup>1</sup>	Desired Future	Acres
I,II	19025	UDS	UDS	OFS	65

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:

The operation is located within a spotted owl management circle and is positioned just outside the 0.7 mile circle originating from the activity center. The area biologist has established that the operation area contains suitable owl habitat. The biologist has determined that there is insufficient acreage of suitable habitat within the owl circle. Therefore, the thinning prescription is designed to

maintain suitable habitat and leave the overall integrity of the stand intact. The area wildlife biologist will assist in implementing harvesting prescriptions in both Areas I and II.

**Area I Pathway:** Harvest in Area I would be a partial cut that would take the form of creating small patch cuts (0.5 - 2 acres in size) on about 20% of the acreage. (Patch cuts will be created in the most dense part of the stand). In addition, around each patch cut a light thinning out to one tree height would be conducted. None of the remaining portion of the stand would be harvested.

Inside the patch cuts all Douglas-fir trees would be removed except when patch size is in excess of 1 acre in which case a few trees would be marked for retention. (Other conifer species and hardwoods in the patch cuts would be reserved) Thinning down to a relative density (RD) of about 44 would be conducted out to one tree height from the edge of each patch. This thinning would be designed to permit seedlings in the patch cuts to receive ample amounts of sunlight to assure good growth.

Patch cuts will be treated with site preparation herbicides in order to deter brush competition. Western hemlock and western redcedar in approximately equal amounts and at a rate of 360 tpa will be planted. Animal damage mitigation will consist of tubing all cedar to protect against deer and elk browse. Mountain beaver control work is not expected to be necessary. A few Douglas-fir will be planted in the larger openings.

It is likely that at least one herbicide application would be necessary within the first three years after planting to release planted seedlings from competing vegetation.

Ten to fifteen years after planting, the trees within the patch cuts would need to be pre-commercially thinned. By this time additional western hemlock, western redcedar, and Douglas-fir may have seeded in naturally and contribute to the need to pre-commercially thin.

To continue to move this stand towards OFS, the patch cut trees would need additional thinning 15-20 years after pre-commercial thinning. Snags and down wood may need to be added to the stand if sufficient amounts don't accumulate naturally. This will enhance the pathway to OFS as the stocking level of overstory trees may be inhibiting understory growth. An additional 10% of the stand would need to be patch cut, planted and thinned at the appropriate time(s).

**Area II Pathway:** Harvest in Area II would be in the form of a light thinning to a RD of about 52 which will leave about 100 Douglas-fir and hemlock trees per acre. Patches of larger trees and areas that had structural diversity consisting of more than one canopy layer would be posted as reserve areas. All trees 30" and greater at DBH would be retained. All hemlock, cedar, alder and other minor tree

species would be reserved. In addition, all snags that do not pose a safety hazard and all down wood would remain.

These practices should assure that the integrity of the stand will remain intact. Thinning the stand to an RD of about 52 should allow some release of existing natural western hemlock seedlings as well as some seed in of western hemlock and western red cedar.

In order to put this stand on a pathway to OFS it will be necessary to keep the shade tolerant understory tree species a viable part of the stand. Therefore, additional future thinnings should be considered. Snags and down wood may need to be added to the stand if sufficient amounts don't accumulate naturally. Creating snags and down wood will enhance the pathway to OFS as the stocking level of overstory trees may be inhibiting understory growth.

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

**Table 4. Timber and Revenue**

Ownership		Sale Type	
BOF	CSL	Cash	Recovery
%	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Planned Quarter: 4			

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	600	0	600
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	\$300	0	
Estimated Gross Value	\$180,000	0	\$180,000
		Project Costs:	\$34,000
		Estimated Net Value:	\$146,000

**VI. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND HARVESTING:**

Access to the operation area is from Lincoln County road #31, U.S. Forest Service and an Industrial Forest landowner. The county road is paved while the other roads are gravel surfaced and in good condition but will require some spot rock. Use of the Forest Service and private roads will require access permits.

The major road system that will provide access to the operation area is in place. The road that traverses the operation area from east to west accesses approximately 75% of necessary landings. Approximately 0.2 miles of unsurfaced new road will need to be constructed along a ridgetop to provide additional access. The location of these roads is on gentle ground. Because existing roads already access the majority of the sale area and are in good locations, no other harvest or transportation alternatives were considered.

About 0.8 miles of road improvement will be necessary.

Harvesting timber in the operation area would require a combination of about 80% ground skidding and 20% cable yarding.

A gate will be installed on the east side of the main access road to restrict vehicle travel to the west.

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

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct	0	0	0	0.2
Improve	0	0	0	0.8
Maintain	0	8.7	0	0
Close/Block	0	0	0	1.0
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 in the operation area.

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

Suitable habitat for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets exists in the operation area. Surveys for both species were conducted in 2004 and 2005 with no detections. Surveys for owls will continue in 2006.

The area biologist has drafted a biological assessment for this operation since it is located in a spotted owl management circle. Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife service regarding this operation was completed and their recommendations are the basis for the thinning prescriptions.

The operation area was checked against district knowledge for any listed plant location. The operation area was also checked against the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ONHP) database of known listed plant locations. No listed plant records were identified within the operation area.

The Land Management Classification System for the wildlife habitat category determined that all of the operation area is owl habitat.

**IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:**

There is only one very small steep slope mapped inside 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 inside the sale area the geotechnical specialist will be consulted.

**X. RECREATION RESOURCES:**

Recreation for the operation area consists of hunting.

**XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

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

**XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:**

The operation area is not visible from any paved highway.

**XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:**

No other resource considerations have been identified.

**XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:**

The operation area contains 65 acres Focused Stewardship, Wildlife Habitat. See Section VIII, T & E Species Considerations, for the management guidelines to be utilized.