

## APPENDIX

### Water Quality Restoration Plan for Federal Lands in the Trask River Watershed

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#### OVERVIEW

In coordination with the accomplishment of the Trask Watershed Analysis (WA), the Tillamook Resource Area (TRA) has reviewed its requirements for completing a Water Quality Restoration Plan (WQRP) for BLM-managed land in the Trask River fifth-field watershed. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) were established for the Trask River watershed in 1998, by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). The TMDLs that could potentially be affected by management on BLM land include water temperature in the North Fork of the North Fork, and on the mainstem of the Trask River from Bark Shanty Creek downstream. In an effort to determine if a WQRP was necessary, we used the “Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Protocol for Addressing Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Listed Waters” (May 1999).

We followed the Forest Service and BLM Decision Framework for 303(d) Listed Waters that is listed on page 6 of the above-mentioned document. This framework has seven components that outline an efficient way to address water quality within existing planning processes. These components are listed on page 3 of the document. Using the Decision Framework, we came to the conclusion that the 303(d) water temperature listings on the Trask River are not related to past or present BLM management. The rationale for this finding will be further explained below. In accordance with the Decision Framework, if the 303(d) listing is not related to the management of BLM land, then there is no requirement to complete a WQRP.

#### VALIDATE LISTING

The first step in determining if a WQRP is necessary is to validate the current 303(d) listing. We have no data to invalidate the listing, and therefore we assumed that the current listing as displayed on Table 3.10 of the WA is correct.

#### ASSESSMENT

The second step is to determine if the listing is related to management of BLM land. We strongly believe that the 303(d) listings are not related to management on BLM land for the following reasons:

1. Very little active management has occurred on BLM land in the Trask River watershed in the last 35 to 40 years. After the Tillamook burns there were large scale salvage and replanting efforts, but these were almost all concluded by 1965, and many of them were finished 10 to 20 years earlier. Only 65 acres (approximately .7%) of BLM-managed land in the watershed have been commercially harvested since the Tillamook burn.

2. Only 8% (approximately 88 miles) of the streams in the Trask Watershed are on BLM-managed land. Of these streams, only 1 river mile is on the mainstem, (a seventh order stream). BLM-managed land on the mainstem composes only .09% of all the streams in the watershed.
3. Approximately 89% (approximately 78 miles) of the streams on BLM-managed lands are 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> order streams. These smaller streams tend to have very dense canopy covers, which often exceed 90%.
4. The BLM does not manage any land in the North Fork of the North Fork of the Trask River.
5. The land-use allocations (LUA) in the Trask River Watershed include Adaptive Management Area, Riparian Reserve and Late-Successional Reserve. One of the principle intentions of both of these LUA's is to create late-successional forest (LSF). LSF is characterized by large trees, large dead standing and down wood, and multi-layered canopies. All of these characteristics, especially in close proximity to a stream, have been shown to reduce water temperature.
6. Approximately 3,165 acres (38%) of BLM managed land in the Trask River Watershed drains into Barney Reservoir. The water that leaves the reservoir is not 303(d) listed.
7. Over 99% of the 8241 acres of BLM land in the Trask River Watershed are forested. Only 65 acres (.7%) are less than 30 years old. The vast majority (96%) of BLM managed land are between 26 and 106 years old. These stand ages are typified by dense forest canopies, a high degree of inter-crown competition and high levels of shade on the forest floor. All of these attributes have been shown to reduce water temperature.

#### NEXT STEPS

The third step is to submit these findings to ODEQ for review. The BLM plans to comply with this step as soon after publication of the Trask River Watershed Analysis as possible.

#### References:

Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Protocol for Addressing Clean Water Act Section 303 (d) Listed Waters. May 1999. Version 2.0

Tillamook Bay Watershed TMDL. Appendix D Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) 1998.