

## 2006 AOP Public Comments and Responses

### North Cascade District

### Proposed Management Prescription

**COMMENT:** The City believes that a modified clearcut on slopes greater than 60% can negatively affect water quality. Stream sediment degrades water supplies for municipal use....

**RESPONSE:** Water Quality protection is mandated by both federal and state laws. The Oregon Forest Practices rules are approved as sufficient to implement water quality standards under the federal Clean Water Act. The Aquatic and Riparian Standards listed in Appendix J of the FMP will be followed when posting the stream buffers within Lookout Below. In accordance with the FMP Aquatic and Riparian Standards listed in Appendix J, a no harvest zone will be located from the edge of the high water mark and extended to the top of the slope break that defines the inner gorge area of the streams within the operation area. Given the nature of the streams within Lookout Below, this will more than likely be further than 25 feet away from the stream. From wherever the no harvest zone ends out to 100 feet from the stream, 15 to 25 conifer trees and snags per acre will be retained. From 100 feet to 170 feet from the stream, 0 to 10 conifer trees and snags will be retained. (preference will be given to retaining trees within the 25 to 100 foot riparian zone.) These standards will meet or exceed the Oregon Forest Practices rules. An ODF Geotechnical Specialist will review the sale in the field during sale layout in collaboration for planning and carrying out management activities on steep slopes.

### T & E Species Considerations

**COMMENT:** **Abiqua Basin:** we would like to review the BA once it is completed

**COMMENT:** **Kilo Thin:** We would like to review the BA once it is completed

**RESPONSE:** A “final” BA that incorporates any new survey or other information acquired during sale preparation is developed and available for public review prior to auction of a timber sale.

**COMMENT:** **Lookout Below:** We need to know if the non-territorial owl becomes reclassified as resident

**COMMENT:** **Snake Charmer:** If presence of the E. Thomas Spotted Owl pair is confirmed in surveys, this sale must be withdrawn.

**RESPONSE:** If a site becomes established a BA would be required for this sale. A “final” BA that incorporates any new survey or other information acquired during sale preparation is developed and available for public review prior to auction of a timber sale.

**COMMENT:** **Kilo** would harass and pursue Spotted Owls. Such a large thin would adversely modify the special micro-climate. Very high risk of killing an owl outright since one was located within the sale area in 2004, causes us to demand this sale be canceled.

**RESPONSE:** No owl responses occurred within the proposed sale area within 2004 according to our 2004 survey records. The District is following the current ODF policy regarding Northern Spotted Owls. Consultations are conducted with ODFW and USFW. Approval for the Operations Plans will not occur until comments have been received from those agencies and review and recommendations have been made by the Program Director, the Area Director and the District Forester.

**COMMENT:** **Abiqua Basin** would harass and pursue Spotted Owls. The Owl circle falls below incidental take guidelines for suitable habitat and must be cancelled inside the circle with light thinning (40%) outside of the circle.

**RESPONSE:** The District is following the current ODF policy regarding Northern Spotted Owls. The USFWS reviewed this sale and determined that this sale was not likely to result in incidental take of spotted owls. Approval for the Operations Plans will not occur until recommendations have been made by the Program Director, the Area Director and the District Forester. The stands within Abiqua Basin are currently at SDI of 41%. Thinning to SDI 40% would not do anything to improve the growing conditions within the stands. The District feels that a moderate partial cut to a SDI of 30% would be more beneficial.