

Appendix L

Scattered Tracts Plan

This appendix outlines the plan for the scattered tracts of northeast and central Oregon that are Common School Forest Lands (listed). The State Forester, under a contract with the State Land Board and the Division of State Lands, is responsible for the management of these lands according to the general policies and objectives of the State Land Board. The State Land Board (SLB) is comprised of the Governor, the Secretary of State, and the State Treasurer. The management objectives for these lands are directed by the Oregon Constitution (Article VII, Section 5). The primary objective of the Common School Forest Lands is to generate income for the Common School Fund consistent with sound land and timber management policies. In addition to the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Scattered Tracts Plan, the Division of State Lands (DSL) is developing an Asset Management Plan that will provide policy guidance for determining retention, sales, and exchange strategies for all its properties. DSL's plan will include the Common School Forest Lands currently managed by ODF under contract with the SLB and DSL.

Situation

Klamath-Lake District has management responsibility for 42,020 acres of state-owned land. Of this total, 33,225 acres are located in Klamath County. The remaining acres are broken into 53 smaller parcels of Common School Forest Land. These parcels are commonly referred to as the Eastern Region scattered tracts. These parcels are located in 12 counties in central and northeast Oregon, and total 8,755 acres. The table on the next page summarizes information about the location of the scattered tracts.

Table L-1. Summary of the Scattered Tracts

County	Number of Parcels	Acres
Baker	2	120
Deschutes	4	520
Grant	5	2,120
Harney	5	1,520
Hood River	7	1,343
Jefferson	1	80
Morrow	2	64
Umatilla	2	297
Union	5	927
Wallowa	4	764
Wasco	3	240
Wheeler	13	760
Total	53 parcels	8,755 acres

Land Base Goal

One of the Eastern Region’s long range “Land Base” goals is to increase the efficiency and economic feasibility of intensive forest management. Land exchanges and removing lands from the list of Common School Forest Lands are both considered when making land base decisions. Because the scattered tracts are difficult to manage, ODF has decided to make the exchange of these lands a high priority. The objective of an exchange is to trade the scattered tracts for land on districts with state forest management staff. The first priority will be to acquire land in the Klamath-Lake District. However, lands on other districts may be considered. The priorities for acquiring land within the Klamath-Lake District are listed below.

1. Adjacent to the North Block
2. Adjacent to the Southwest Block
3. Adjacent to the East Block

The Department of Forestry’s goal is to review and pursue exchange opportunities for these scattered tracts. Lands that don’t have any potential exchange partners will be recommended for de-listing back to DSL by December 1995. On the parcels that do have exchange

opportunities, the Klamath-Lake District's goal will be to accomplish the exchanges within 10 years. Any exchanges will be for equal-aggregate value of the land traded by ODF. Land appraisal values will be determined by a licensed real estate appraiser, will be cost-shared by parties involved, and will comply with ODF's exchange policy.

Interim Management

In the interim period, ODF will not be actively managing these scattered tracts. The Department of Forestry will take management action whenever forest health problems threaten to cause a significant loss in the asset value of a parcel of forest land. The Department's Insect and Disease section has reviewed the scattered tracts for forest health problems and will continue to monitor them through the annual insect and disease surveys. The Insect and Disease section used the following review criteria: any parcels in danger of losing their forest value before the end of the ten year exchange window would receive management treatment.

As a result of this review, two parcels have been actively managed. Part of one parcel was treated with precommercial thinning in 1993, and part of another parcel is being treated by a salvage harvest. The Department of Forestry will continue to monitor these parcels for forest health problems.

ODF and DSL Coordination on Exchange Criteria

The Department of Forestry is currently coordinating with DSL on land exchange opportunities that will consolidate our forest land management areas in the Klamath-Lake District. ODF will review each parcel that could potentially be exchanged, using the following criteria provided by DSL. It would be desirable to exchange parcels that meet these criteria.

- Small parcel (less than or equal to 640 acres)
- Surrounded by non-state owned land
- Isolated from other tracts of state-owned land
- Uneconomical to manage as single tract
- Impaired access for management purposes
- Low forest product value
- Low value for other income-producing uses (i.e. grazing)
- Management of parcel strongly influenced by actions of adjacent owners/managers
- Local government and public opinion likely to support exchange plan
- Public values on site (i.e. recreation use, special features) not likely to be significantly affected

DSL has stated that from a forest management viewpoint, it is desirable to exchange these parcels in order to add to the Sun Pass or other State Forests. However, according to the July 24, 1992 Attorney General's opinion (No. 8223), the primary objective of Common School Lands is the "production of income for the Common School Fund." (See Appendix C for a detailed discussion of policies on Common School Lands.) Therefore, these lands need to be fully evaluated for all uses and income potential before exchange. To ensure this is done, the Department of Forestry and DSL will coordinate their review of each parcel.

Summary of Exchange Opportunities

Klamath-Lake District / Hood River County

The Klamath-Lake District is currently involved in a three-way exchange between the U.S. Forest Service (Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area and Winema National Forest), Hood River County, and the State of Oregon. In this exchange, Hood River County's land that lies within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Boundary will go to the Forest Service, Hood River County will get Common School Forest Land along with acquisition of some land from the Mt. Hood National Forest, and the State will get Winema National Forest land adjacent to Sun Pass State Forest. This exchange opportunity meets our long range goals and objectives. It is an optimum exchange for the Department of Forestry, because ODF is able to meet its management goal of exchanging the land, while receiving land in the preferred area of acquisition adjacent to the North Block.

Klamath-Lake District / Boise Cascade

The Klamath-Lake District is also involved in an exchange with Boise Cascade. Boise Cascade could potentially acquire 1,384 acres of Common School Forest Land in northeast Oregon. The Department of Forestry would acquire land of equal aggregate value in Klamath County adjacent to the Southwest Block.

These two exchange opportunities have been pre-approved in concept by DSL. The Klamath-Lake District has assigned staff to review exchange potential on all parcels. ODF staff will coordinate with DSL on the identification of parcels with disposal potential, either in land exchanges or a recommendation for de-listing (return to DSL management).