

**SW OREGON REGIONAL FOREST
PRACTICES COMMITTEE
OPERATOR OF THE YEAR TOUR**

Tour: October 11-12th, 2023





FOREST OPERATOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

PURPOSE: This directive establishes guidelines for the Forest Practices Forest Operator Recognition Program.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. To publicly recognize operators that consistently exceed the Oregon Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice rules.
- B. To improve public understanding of the Forest Practices Act and its accomplishments.

AUTHORITY: ORS 527.630 It is the "...policy of the State of Oregon to encourage economically efficient forest practices that assure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species and the maintenance of forestland for such purposes as the leading use on privately owned land, consistent with sound management of soil, air, water, fish and wildlife resources and scenic resources within visually sensitive corridors...."

SCOPE: This directive is to be applied statewide.

STANDARDS:

- A. Levels of Recognition (or categories).
 - 1. Forest Operator of the Year. The Oregon State Board of Forestry will present three "Forest Practices Forest Operator of the Year" awards to operators selected by each of the three regional Forest Practice committees. Selected operators will be individuals/companies that consistently exceed the Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice rules.
 - 2. Merit Awards. Merit award winners shall be selected from Forest Operator of the Year nominees. Winners must consistently exceed the Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice rules.
 - 3. Letters of Commendation. Districts should give Letters of Commendation to operators that have shown concern for the environment during an operation, regardless of the degree of operation difficulty or past operator performance.



FOREST OPERATOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

STANDARDS: (Cont.)

- B. Size of Operation to Recognize. Any size operation may be recognized.
- C. Type of Operation to Recognize. Either companies, contractors or individuals may be recognized. Awards are not limited to harvesting operations. Generally, landowners will not be considered for recognition as operators except in cases where the landowner is conducting the operation.
- D. Nomination Screening Criteria. Only operators who meet the following criteria will be considered for Operator of the Year or merit awards.
 - 1. Consistency of the Operator. The operator can be counted upon to consistently do an outstanding job.

"Consistently" is defined as no violations of the Forest Practices Act within the last two years, and recognition by the Forest Practices forester of "exceeding rules" often. "Exceeds" is defined to mean that the operator prevents resource damage, and results go beyond the rules and the minimum required results.
 - 2. Degree of Difficulty. The operator faced a difficult operation. (For example, most operators could do a good job on flat ground with no running streams involved.)
 - 3. Innovation and Extra Effort. The operator used innovations, extra effort or other creative solutions in conducting operations while protecting or enhancing resources.
 - 4. Results. The operator achieved resource protection results on the ground which exceed the intent of the rules, or otherwise enhanced protected resources as described in Board of Forestry policy.
 - 5. Financial Risk. The operator assumed some financial risk in conducting the operation. (Money, time, or equipment, as opposed to the landowner paying the operator for cost plus profit.)



FOREST OPERATOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

STANDARDS: (Cont.)

- E. Weighing Factors. Operators who met all the nomination criteria will be considered for recognized Operator of the Year awards. The operator may have done an excellent job on one operation, but adequate at other times. In such cases, the operator should be considered for a Letter of Commendation or a Merit Award. The operator who consistently does an excellent job of exceeding the Act on several operations (either the same or different types of operations) should be considered for regional Forest Operator of the Year. An operator who does an excellent job on a few operations can still be nominated for regional Forest Operator of the Year, but more weight would go to the operator that does an excellent job on several operations.
- F. Number of Awards.
1. Forest Operator of the Year -- One award each for the Eastern Oregon, Southwest Oregon, and Northwest Oregon Forest Practices Regions.
 2. Merit Awards -- No more than one award per district except when the area director believes circumstances warrant otherwise.
 3. Letters of Commendation -- No limit.

OPTIONAL RATING FORM
OPERATOR RECOGNITION
OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

CRITERIA	POINTS POSSIBLE	SCORE
CONSISTENCY	20	
DIFFICULTY	15	
CONCERN FOR RESOURCE	20	
INNOVATION/EFFORT	15	
RESULTS	30	
TOTAL SCORE		

STOP #1

PLIKAT LOGGING

SW Oregon Regional Forest Practices Committee

Operator of the Year Tour – October 11th, 2023



OPTIONAL RATING FORM
OPERATOR RECOGNITION
OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

CRITERIA	POINTS POSSIBLE	SCORE
CONSISTENCY	20	
DIFFICULTY	15	
CONCERN FOR RESOURCE	20	
INNOVATION/EFFORT	15	
RESULTS	30	
TOTAL SCORE		





2023 Operator Recognition Program – Nomination Form

AWARD CATEGORY: *Operator of the Year / Merit Award*

REGION (NW/SW/East): Southwest Oregon

DISTRICT: Western Lane (Coos Bay)

NOMINATED BY: Roseburg Resources

OPERATOR INFORMATION AND MAILING ADDRESS:

Operator Company Name: Plikat Logging

Company Address: 6012 N Umpqua Highway, Roseburg, Oregon, 97470

Company Phone No. (541)- 673-0553

Company Email: Plikatlog2@gmail.com

Company Primary Contact Name (Owner): Wally Plikat

Contact Cell Phone No. (541) 430-7910

Contacts Email: Plikatlog2@gmail.com

Operation Information (*Operation as example of work with RFPC tour*)

Activities: Harvest (X) Site Prep () Reforestation () Road Construction ()
Stand Management () Other () _____

Date of Operation: 11/8/2022 – 4/19/2023

NOAP No. 2022-740-10079

Location of Operation (Legal Desc & Landmark): T27S R9W Sec 32

General Description of Operation: Cable and ground based unit with some downhill logging.

What were the protected resources involved and efforts involved: Large Fish and Medium Fish streams. Medium Fish stream had to be fully suspended.

Criteria of Award Nomination

Describe Operator's Consistency in performance over the years (use examples):

Operator always turns out a quality product both on the ground and at the mill.

He always takes extra care to protect resources and puts in the extra effort to clean up after he is done and he never cuts any corners.

Describe the Difficulty and complexity of the operation nominated as well as past operations in regards to protection of forest resources: Unit had a mix of ground based and yarder ground that operations had to be staged and timed appropriately. Portion of the unit had to be fully suspended through an RMA with lower than ideal lift. Natural openings and lateral yarding were used to minimize resource impacts. Downhill yarding had to be done with no lift. Area sees a lot of public use so extra effort was needed to clean up after logging.



Describe how the operator was Innovative/Extra Efforts (including matching equipment to the job) or used extra effort on this operation and then Past Operations: Operator excels in ground based operations during wet time periods. He self regulates and consistently shuts down when needed to prevent and damage to the ground. Operator staged his operation to ensure that both ground based operations and cable operations were productive and stayed out of each other's way. Operator takes the time needed up front to ensure operations will protect RMA and waters of the state. He will often adjust operations as needed to ensure a better outcome for landowner and state,

Describe Results in resource protection and forest management benefits: Operator safely logged all tough portions of the unit. Extra care was taken to minimize impacts to state protected resources and landowner resources. Excellent post logging clean up to ensure that public use in this area is safe for both the public and landowner.

Describe the Financial Risk assumed by the operator as well as how much influence the landowner had on this operation: Operation was negotiated between landowner and logger at a ton rate. Landowner ensured clean up specifications were met and logging plan met goals of the landowner of protect both state and private resources,

OTHER INFO that should be known for consideration to help form a solid picture of your nominee: Operator consistently turns out a quality product both on the ground and at the mills. Impacts to the landowner and state resources are always minimal and operator always conductus his operations in a professional way.

Landowner of Operation listed above:

Agency/Company: Roseburg Resources
Contact Name: Michael Williams
Title: Logging Contract Supervisor
Email: MichaelWill@Rfpco.com
Phone No. (541)-643-8787

Nominator(s):

Agency/Company: Roseburg Resources
Contact Name: Michael Williams
Title: Logging Contract Supervisor
Email: MichaelWill@Rfpco.com
Phone No. (541)-643-8787



Saved to Y: Drive

August 20, 2022

State of Oregon
Department of Forestry

Subject: Written Plan East Brummit # 2841

This is a written plan for East Brummit # 2841. It addresses cutting & yarding activities in the vicinity of a large and medium fish streams.

(Large Fish). East Fork Brummit Creek, a large fish stream is buffered in the SE and SW portion of this harvest unit. Both buffers were hung at 100 feet from the high water mark. Basal area was met for both portions of the buffer. The SE portion of the buffer contains 46 conifer and 35 hardwood wildlife trees. The SW portion of the buffer contains 2 conifer and 37 hardwood wildlife trees.

(East Fork Brummit tributary Buffer L/F). The large fish stream, tributary to East fork Brummit Creek, is the eastern boundary of the harvest unit. The buffer is hung at 100 feet from the high water mark. Basal area was met for this buffer. The buffer contains 39 conifers and 46 hardwood wildlife trees.

(East Fork Brummit Creek Tributary Buffer Medium Fish Stream). The medium fish stream, tributary to the East Fork Brummit Creek, runs through the middle of the harvest unit. The buffer is hung at 70 feet from the high water mark on the western side of the buffer. The eastern side of the buffer is hung from 50 to 70 feet from the high water mark. Basal area was met for both sides of the buffer. The buffer contains 96 conifer and 50 hardwood wildlife trees.

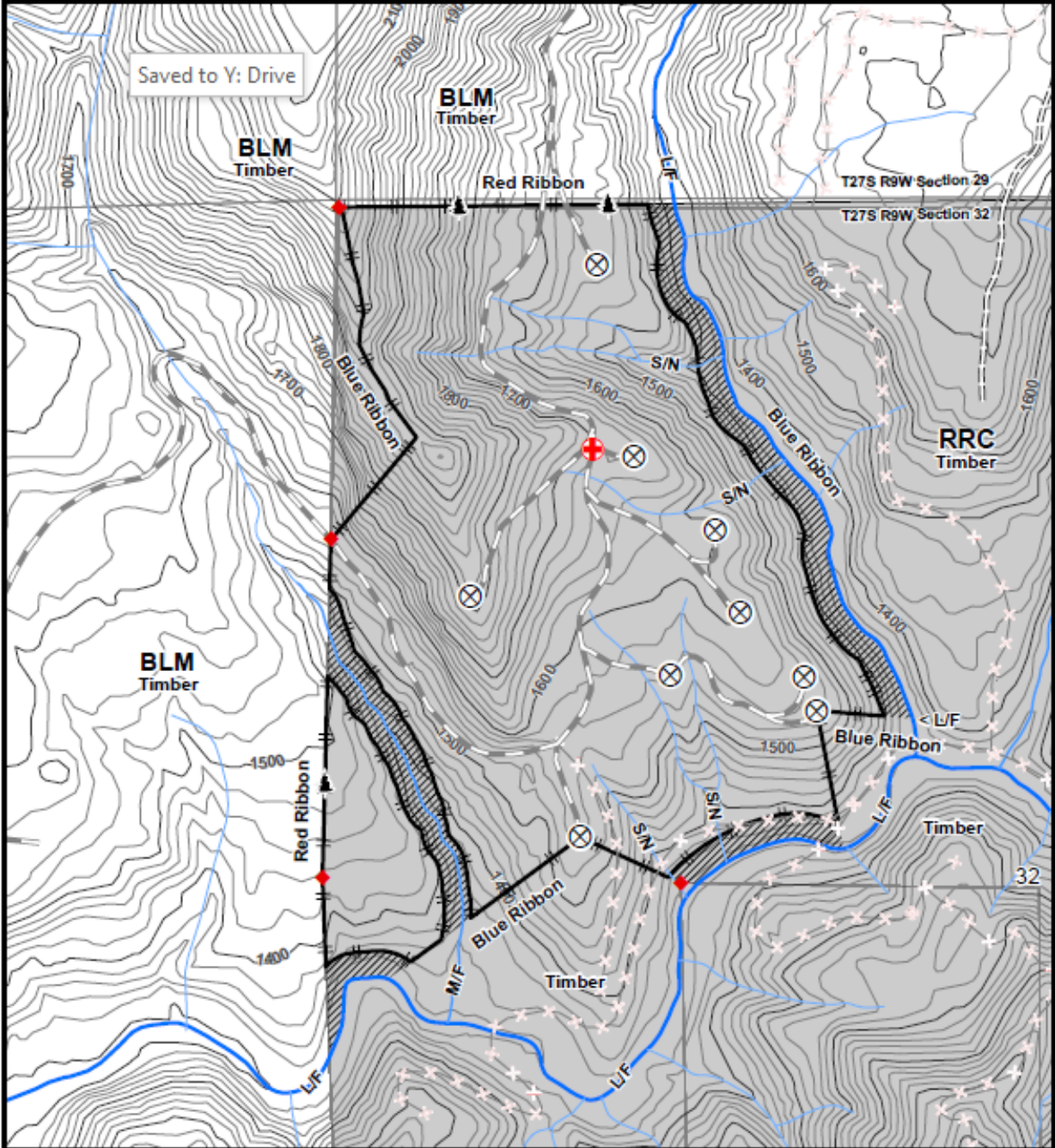
RMA Protection: When necessary to hang through the RMA to achieve adequate deflection to log within the unit boundary contractor will maximize lateral yarding capabilities to minimize the number of logging roads that hang through the RMA. Road layouts will be respooled and restrung through RMAs on each road change. Contract logger will be responsible for not removing dead and downed material within the RMAs. If a corridor has to be cut through the RMA for safety none of the trees will be taken, we will try to pick natural openings to minimize corridor width and damage to any vegetation. Logs and large debris (limbs, tops) that enter the stream will be removed progressively with logging operations.

Harold Rowe

8-20-22

Senior Contract Administrator:

Date



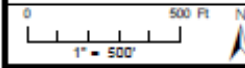
Unit Name: East Brummit
 Unit No.: 2841
 Unit Acres: 91
 S(T-R): 32 (T27S-R9W)

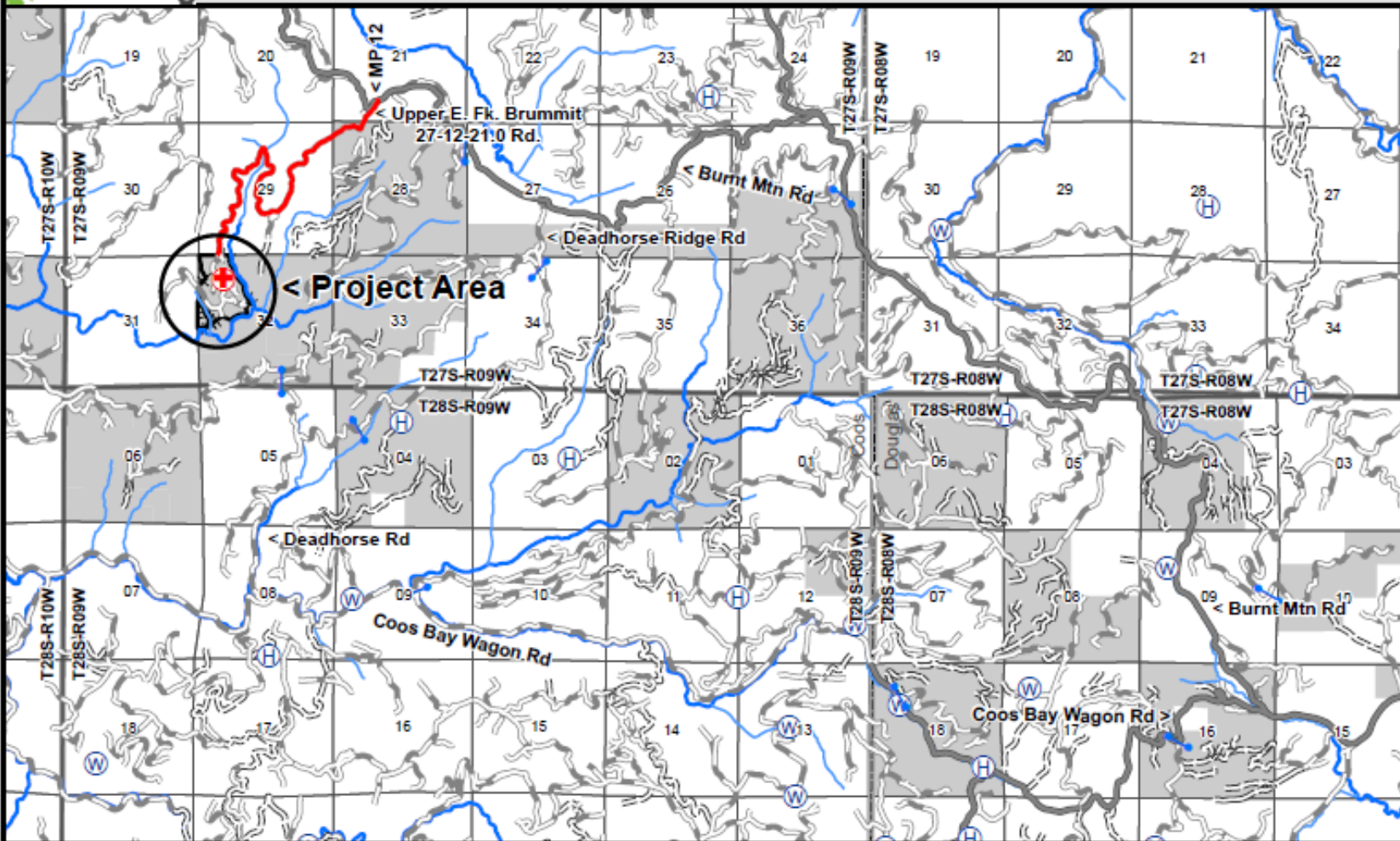
- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Gates | Hell Pond | Dirt |
| Landing | Waterhole | Jeep Trail |
| Medical Evac. | Interstate | Abandoned |
| Leave Tree | US & State HWY | Roseburg Ownership |
| Survey Station | Paved | Cutting Boundary |
| | Rocked | Wildlife Tree Area |
| | | Riparian Buffer |

Landowner: RRC
 Collateral: FCL
 Depletion: RR

Lat: 43° 10.9453'
 Long: -123° 47.9054'

Regulated Use Area: CS-2
 Date: 6/30/2022





- Gates
- Medical Evac.
- Heli Pond
- Waterhole
- Interstate
- US & State HWY
- Paved
- Rocked
- Dirt
- Jeep Trail
- Abandoned
- Roseburg Ownership
- Cutting Boundary
- Wildlife Tree Area
- Riparian Buffer

Directions to East Brummit

From Winston head west on HWY 42. In approximately 9.1 miles turn right onto Reston Rd. Follow Reston for 4.5 miles and turn left on to Coos Bay Wagon Rd. Follow Coos Bay Wagon Rd for 1.5 miles and turn right onto Burnt Mtn Access Rd. Follow Burnt Mountain for 12 miles to East Fork Brummit Creek Rd. (27-9-21.0 Rd.). Turn left and follow to project location.

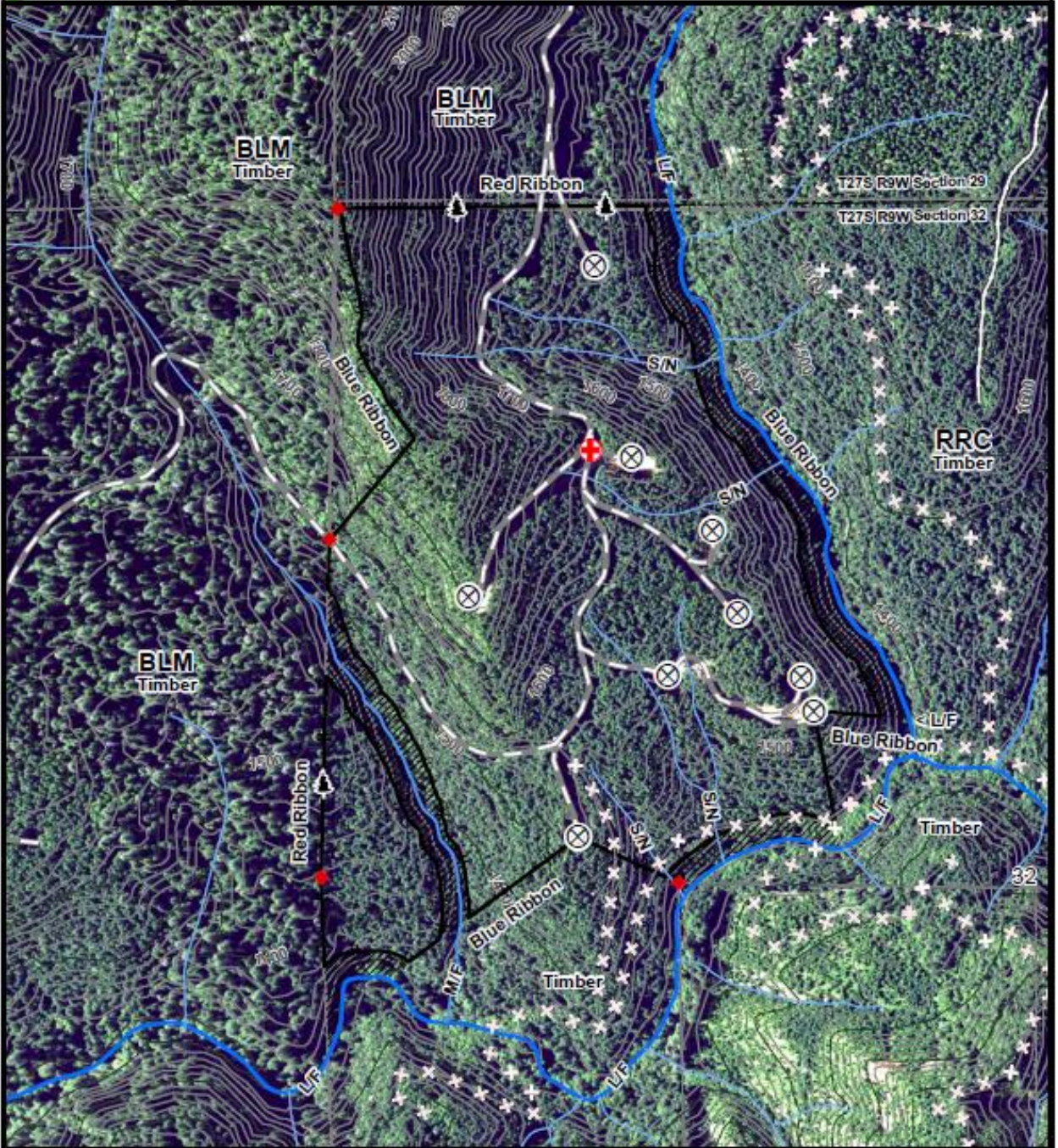
S(T-R): 32 (T27S-R9W)

1" = 1 mi

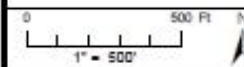
Lat: 43° 10.9449' N
 Long: 123° 47.9045' W

Date: 6/30/2022





Unit Name: East Brummit
 Unit No.: 2841
 Unit Acres: 91
 S(T-R): 32 (T27S-R9W)



- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Gates | Hell Pond | Dirt |
| Landing | Waterhole | Jeep Trail |
| Medical Evac. | Interstate | Abandoned |
| Leave Tree | US & State HWY | Roseburg Ownership |
| Survey Station | Paved | Cutting Boundary |
| | Rocked | Wildlife Tree Area |
| | | Riparian Buffer |

Landowner: RRC
 Collateral: FCL
 Depletion: RR

Lat: 43° 10.9453'
 Long: -123° 47.9054'

Regulated Use Area: CS-2
 Date: 6/30/2022





NOTIFICATION OF OPERATIONS/PERMIT TO OPERATE POWER-DRIVEN MACHINERY (NOAP)

Notification Number: 2022-740-10079C
Operation Name: East Brummit # 2841



This NOAP includes the following for the lands described in the NOAP:

The notifier has given notice to the State Forester that an operation will be conducted.

The Oregon Department of Forestry or local Forest Protective Association has issued a permit to use fire or operate power-driven machinery.

Before you use fire, contact the local office of the Oregon Department of Forestry or Forest Protective Association to see if additional burn permit and/or Smoke Management Program regulations apply.

The notifier has given notice to the State Forester and the Department of Revenue of the intent to harvest timber.

Person Submitting the NOAP: Coquille Roseburg Resources Co. This NOAP was CONTINUED on 12/20/2022 and will expire on 12/31/2023
Date NOAP Submitted: August 20, 2022
Report Generated: June 28, 2023

Waiting Period

You must wait at least 15 days after successful submittal of this NOAP before starting the activities in the NOAP (see OAR 629-605-0150(1)). You may ask the Stewardship Forester to waive this 15-day waiting period, *but you must wait the full 15 days unless the Stewardship Forester notifies you that you may start sooner.*

Oregon Department of Forestry Contact Info

Coos Bay
63612 Fifth Road
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
Phone: (541) 267-4136
Stewardship Forester: Jennifer Ward
Email: jennifer.d.ward@oregon.gov

Operator's Fire Emergency Contact

Contact Name: Harold Rowe
Phone: 541-430-8644

Landowner(s)

Roseburg Resources Company
PO Box 1088
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
541-879-3311

Notice to Landowner(s)

Reforestation may be required after timber harvesting. The Oregon Department of Forestry may conduct on-site inspections for compliance with forest practice and fire protection laws. Land use conversion to non-forest use is subject to other state and local regulations, which may affect use or development of a site.

Timber Owner

Roseburg Resources Company
PO Box 1088
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
541-879-3311

Notice to Timber Owner

If timber is harvested, the party owning the timber at the point it is first measured is responsible for payment of Oregon timber taxes.

Written Plans



A Written Plan (in addition to this NOAP) is required before operation activities can begin near the protected resources listed with the Unit information or Site Conditions below or otherwise described to you by the Stewardship Forester ([OAR 629-605-0170](#) (2), (3), and (5)). The Written Plan must describe in detail how the resource(s) will be protected during the operation. There is a waiting period for Written Plans that is separate from the notification waiting period. Contact your Stewardship Forester for more information.

Formal Comments from Oregon Department of Forestry

Jennifer Ward on 9/6/2022

Written plan has been reviewed. Fully implementing this written plan is likely to achieve compliance with resource protection standards in the forest practice rules/law that it addresses. This operation will be evaluated on the basis of how well required practices are applied and how well required resource protection is achieved.

Donnie Widener on 8/22/2022

Required Statutory Written Plan was received on 8/20/2022; comment period is in effect.

Site Conditions (reported by the Notifier)

Stream within 100 feet of area.

Slope of steepest 1/3 area: 50 %.

Notices

Submitting this Notification of operations on lands described in the NOAP constitutes consent for Department staff to access the property to ensure compliance with state law and rules governing forest practices through on-site inspections. The landowner must notify the stewardship forester to withdraw this consent.

Permission from Landowner and Timber Owner Required for Operators, purchasers, contractors, general public: Submitting this notification does *not* give permission for operators, purchasers, contractors, or the general public to enter someone else's land or remove forest products. Anyone doing so must first obtain permission from the landowner and timber owner.

Pesticide Use: Pesticide users must follow all pesticide product label requirements, including any that prohibit applications near or into streams or other water bodies! Pesticide users must be sure the label that comes with the pesticide product allows the planned use! Contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture [here](#) or at 503-986-4635 for information on allowed uses of pesticide products.

Operations Near Utility Lines: If you are conducting timber harvesting or road construction within 100 feet of overhead utility lines contact the local utility in accordance with ORS 757.805 - Oregon's Overhead Safety Act and OAR 437-007-0230 - Power Line Safeguards. Identification tags are located on each pole.

Call the Oregon Utility Notification Center at 811 at least 2 business days before starting timber harvesting, road construction, or any other activities involving excavation that may affect an underground utility line. The Center will coordinate with the appropriate utility companies to locate underground utility lines that may be affected by your activities.

Using Water for Pesticides or Slash Burning: If you plan to use on-site water (water from a stream, for example) to mix pesticides or for slash burning, you must provide a copy of this NOAP to the local offices of the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (see ORS 537.141).

Registrants & Subscribers: There may be registrants and/or subscribers who receive this Notification. See the Notification Summary page within the E-Notification system or contact ODF for more details.

NOAP Changes: The notifier must inform the Oregon Department of Forestry of any changes in a NOAP before the activity takes place. A new NOAP may be required.



Unit 1 of 1: East Brummit # 2841

90.3 acres Coos County(s) T27S R9W Sec29,T27S R9W Sec32,T27S R9W Sec31 Regulated Use Area: CS-2

Operator: Roseburg Resources Company PO Box 1088 Roseburg, Oregon 97470 541-879-3311	Activity: Clearcut/Overstory Removal Start: 9/3/2022 End: 12/31/2023	Method(s): Cable Quantity: 2600.00 MBF
Operator: Roseburg Resources Company PO Box 1088 Roseburg, Oregon 97470 541-879-3311	Activity: Use of Fire Start: 10/17/2022 End: 12/31/2023	Method(s): Burn Piles, Broadcast Quantity: 90.00 Acres

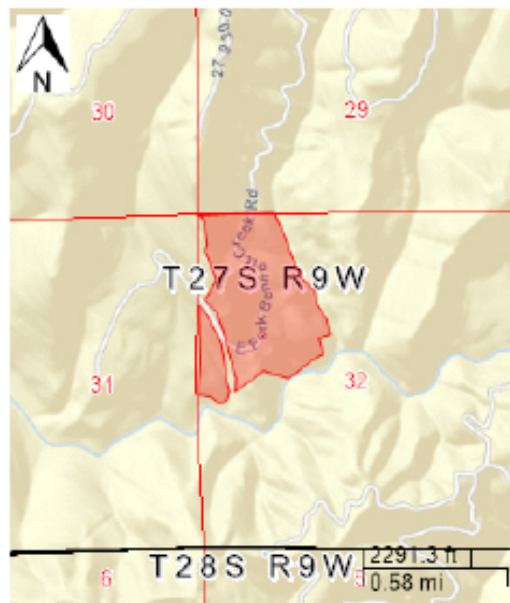
Resources on or near this Unit

Statutory Written Plan required within 100 feet of	Statutory Written Plan required within 300 feet of
East Fork Brummit - T: Large - Type F Stream	
East Fork Brummit - T: Medium - Type F Stream	
East Fork Brummit Creek: Large - Type F Stream	

Notes:

1. A statutory written plan is required for operations within 300 feet of Estuarine or Marine Wetlands, not 100 feet as may be shown above.
2. Contact your Stewardship Forester about streams not shown on the map.

Unit Map: East Brummit # 2841



STOP #2

WEBER LOGGING AND CONSTRUCTION, INC

SW Oregon Regional Forest Practices Committee

Operator of the Year Tour – October 11th, 2023



OPTIONAL RATING FORM
OPERATOR RECOGNITION
OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

CRITERIA	POINTS POSSIBLE	SCORE
CONSISTENCY	20	
DIFFICULTY	15	
CONCERN FOR RESOURCE	20	
INNOVATION/EFFORT	15	
RESULTS	30	
TOTAL SCORE		





2023 Operator Recognition Program – Nomination Form

AWARD CATEGORY: *Operator of the Year / Merit Award*

REGION (NW/SW/East): Southwest Oregon

DISTRICT: Douglas

NOMINATED BY: Roseburg Resources

OPERATOR INFORMATION AND MAILING ADDRESS:

Operator Company Name: Weber Logging and Construction, Inc

Company Address:

Company Phone No. (541)-580-7860

Company Email: Logitnow@hotmail.com

Company Primary Contact Name (Owner): Austin Weber

Contact Cell Phone No. (541)-580-7860

Contacts Email: Logitnow@hotmail.com

Operation Information (*Operation as example of work with RFPC tour*)

Activities: Harvest (X) Site Prep () Reforestation () Road Construction ()
Stand Management () Other () _____

Date of Operation: 04/10/2023 – 6/22/23

NOAP No. 2023-730-00890

Location of Operation (Legal Desc & Landmark): T30S R08W Sec 14

General Description of Operation: Cable logging unit that was tether cut and grapple logged.

What were the protected resources involved and efforts involved: Small Fish stream and Medium SSBT stream. Piece of the unit was suspended across the SSBT stream.

Criteria of Award Nomination

Describe Operator's Consistency in performance over the years (use examples): Operator is proficient in the use of new technology to be efficient, safe, and protect resources. Always takes extra time to protect sensitive areas and clean up after equipment impacts.

Describe the Difficulty and complexity of the operation nominated as well as past operations in regards to protection of forest resources: Unit had fish streams that had to be protected. As well as a portion of the unit that had to fully suspend across RMA. High piece count and scattered old blowdown made this unit a good candidate for tethered cutting.

Describe how the operator was Innovative/Extra Efforts (including matching equipment to the job) or used extra effort on this operation and then Past Operations:



Operator used tethered cutting to minimize the number of skyline roads that crossed the RMA. Operator cleaned up any ruts that would drain into waters of the state. Operator uses excavators as mobile tail holds that provide extra lift to protect buffer trees when grapple logging as well as protecting adjacent plantations. Operator often uses drones to do skyline road changes, which speed up road changes and keep lines in the air to better protect RMA Trees. Part of the unit was fully suspended across RMA. Extra effort was taken to buck trees to ensure full suspension across RMA.

Describe Results in resource protection and forest management benefits: Buffer had minimal damage from logging activities. Any impacts from tethered cutting were mitigated by operator, ensuring protection of waters of the state and long term productivity of the ground.

Describe the Financial Risk assumed by the operator as well as how much influence the landowner had on this operation: Logging unit was bid out to several different operators and Weber Logging and Construction was selected as the lowest bidder. Landowner flagged in the unit, approved operators logging plan and ensures that their ground is protected and all aspects of the contract are met.

OTHER INFO that should be known for consideration to help form a solid picture of your nominee: Operator consistently will take on any unit no matter how difficult it may be. Uses technology to be productive and safe. Operator often takes innovative approach to units and takes extra step to ensure the landowner and state are satisfied with final product.

Landowner of Operation listed above:

Agency/Company: Roseburg Resources
Contact Name: Michael Williams
Title: Logging Contract Supervisor
Email: MichaelWill@Rfpc.com
Phone No. (541)-643-8787

Nominator(s):

Agency/Company: Roseburg Resources
Contact Name: Michael Williams
Title: Logging Contract Supervisor
Email: MichaelWill@Rfpc.com
Phone No. (541)-643-8787



Roseburg Resources Co. Vicinity Map

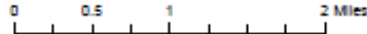
Project Name: Anti Gravity
T30S R08W Section 14



1 Inch = 1 miles



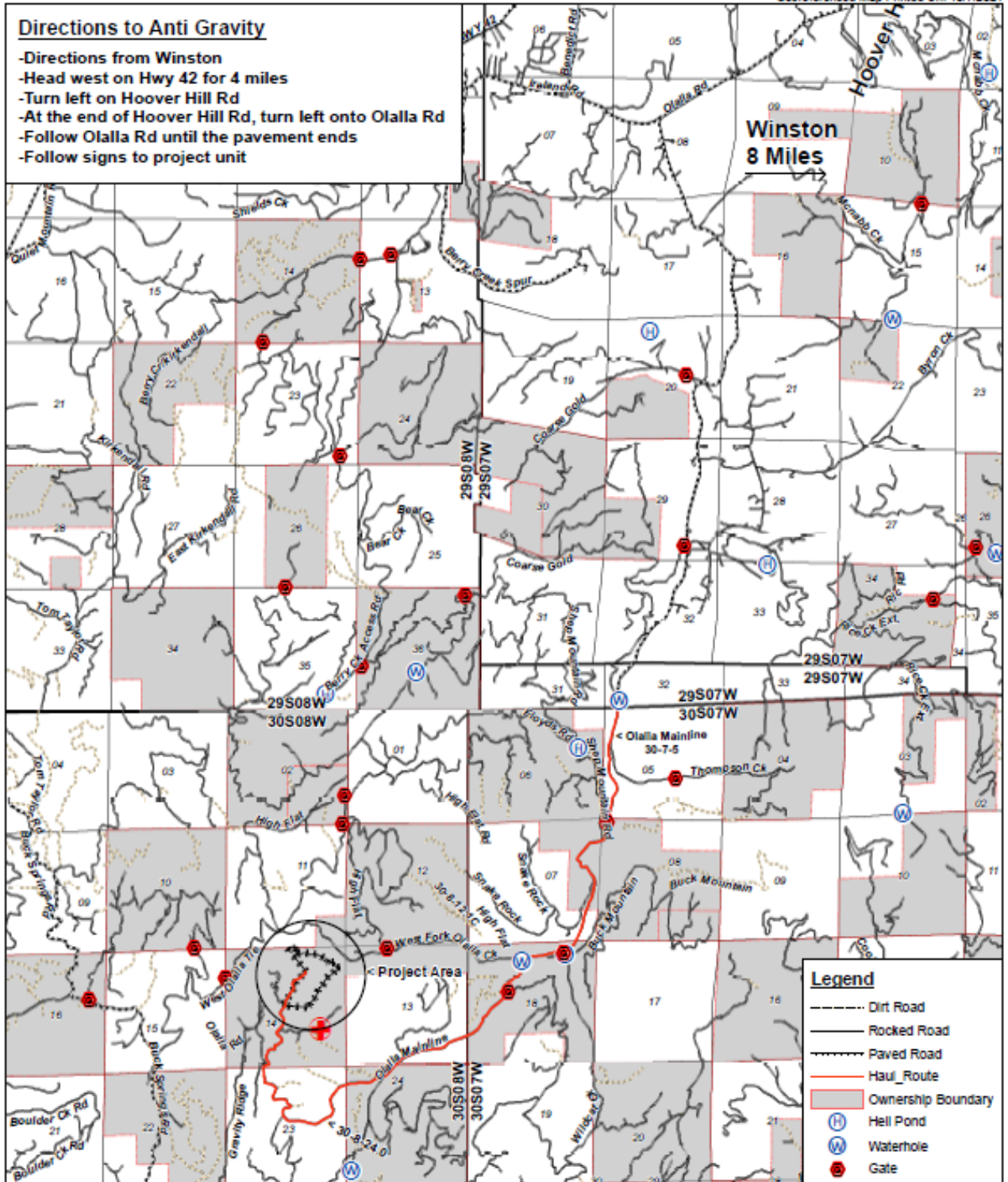
Lat: 42° 57.592'
Long: -123° 36.487'



Georeferenced Map Printed On: 10/7/2021

Directions to Anti Gravity

- Directions from Winston
- Head west on Hwy 42 for 4 miles
- Turn left on Hoover Hill Rd
- At the end of Hoover Hill Rd, turn left onto Olalla Rd
- Follow Olalla Rd until the pavement ends
- Follow signs to project unit





Plan for an Alternate Practice

- Ground-based operations on Steep or Erosion Prone Slopes within 100 feet of a stream
- Ground-based operations on HLHL with No Public Safety Exposure

A. General:

1. Operator Name: Weber Logging and Construction. Contact Phone: (541) 580-7880
2. Landowner Name: Roseburg Resources Company Contact Phone: (541) 643-8787
3. Notification Number: 2023-730-00890 Operation Name: Anti Gravity #1867
4. Legal Description: T. 30 S., R 08 W., Section 14

B. Slope conditions where ground-based operations will take place:

1. Steep or Erosion-Prone Slopes or highly erodible materials?
 - a. Slopes over 60% Yes No
 - b. Slopes over 40%, where ODF determines there are highly erodible soils Yes No
2. High Landslide Hazard Locations (HLHL)? Yes No
 - a. Western Oregon, (excluding competent rock outcrops) slopes over 80%, any headwall, or draw over 70%
 - b. Tye Core Area, slopes over 75%, any headwall, or draw over 65%
 - c. Field identified by geotechnical specialist and ODF verified as equivalent to the above thresholds

C. Ground-based tethered operation activity:

1. Tethered cutting (with cable yarding)? Yes No
2. Tethered cutting and tethered yarding? Yes No

D. Detailed map showing areas of concern (geo-referenced map is preferred):

1. Slope steepness displayed as slope percentage breaks.
 - a. General slope breaks: <40%; 40 to 60%; 60 to 70%; 70 to 80%; >80%
2. Contours
3. Wet areas and downslope streams, including small seasonal streams.
4. "Exclusion zones" where tethered equipment will not operate, such as slides, headwalls.
5. Tethered equipment routes and temporary roads for tethered anchor equipment.
6. Other areas of concern or operational considerations.



E. Describe practices to reduce the potential for erosion to enter waters of the state on all slopes and prevent serious ground disturbance and drainage alterations on HLHL:

1. What Forest Practice Rules will be modified?
 - a. OAR 629-630-0150(5) ground-based equipment within 100 feet of a stream channel? Yes
 - b. OAR 629-630-0500(4) ground-based equipment on HLHL? Yes

2. How will unidentified areas of concern be addressed when discovered during the operation?

Operator will cease operation and contact a RRC representative for further guidance. RRC representative will contact Oregon Department of Forestry to make them aware of the situation and any areas of concern.

3. What will be done to protect stream channels and waters of the state?

No machine activity within stream channels. Ground near streams we will be staying 20' away from stream and reaching in with the Tigercat Barsaw or hot saw to pull trees away from protected streams and waters of the state.

4. What will be done to prevent serious ground disturbance and drainage alterations on HLHL?

Travel the least amount of times up and down the slope. If rutting takes place, they will be smoothed out and waterbarred if need be to divert water from running down them. Areas of disturbance will be covered by slash.

5. What soil disturbance conditions would trigger the modification of the operation?

Excess rutting or soil impacts, such as soil liquification, and/or significant rainfall events.

Operator: _____
print signature date

Landowner: Michael Williams _____
print signature date

ODF: _____
print signature date

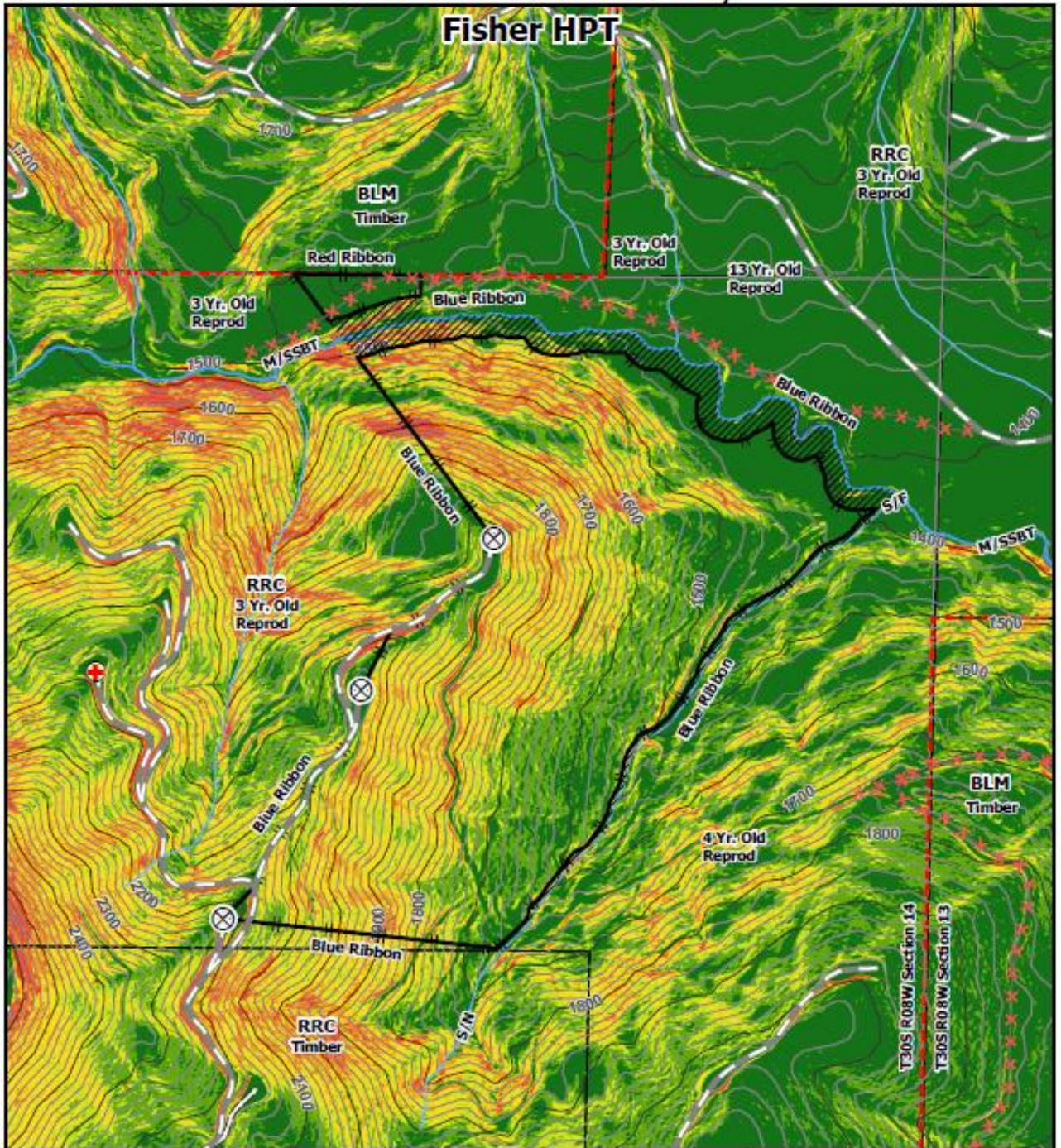
Approved? Yes No Date _____

Fully implementing this Plan for an Alternate Practice will likely achieve the FPA resource protection standards. The operation will be evaluated on the basis of how well this approved Plan for an Alternate Practice is implemented and how well required resource protection is achieved.

Comments:



Exhibit A: Anti Gravity



<p>Roseburg</p> <p>Unit Name: Anti Gravity Source No: 1867 Legal: 30S08W14 Unit Acres: 64</p>	Gate Hell Pond Waterhole Landing Leave Tree Property Corner	Paved Road Rocked Road Dirt Road Jeep Trail Impassible Road Cutting Boundary Wildlife Tree Area Riparian Management Area	<p>Slope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0-35% 35-50% 50-60% 60-75% 75-90% >90% 	<p>Landowner: RRC Collateral Pool: FCL Depletion Pool: RR</p> <p> Medical Evacuation Latitude & Longitude 42° 57.9063', 123° 36.9709'</p> <p>Regulated Use: DG-1 Date: 10/6/2021</p>
	<p>0 500 Feet</p> <p>1" = 500'</p>			



January 10, 2023

State of Oregon
Department of Forestry

Subject: Anti Gravity #1867

This is a written plan for Anti Gravity #1867. It addresses cutting & yarding activities in the vicinity of a Olalla Creek and its tributary.

Medium SSBT Stream (M/SSBT)

The cutting boundary of this buffer was hung variable distances of 8- to 40 feet from high water. The buffer was broke into 7 segments and basal area was met in every segment but segment 1. Cutting occurred in segments with excess basal area. See attached map for further detail. All qualifying trees were counted as wildlife trees.

Small Fish Bearing (S/F)

The cutting boundary was hung at a distance of 20 feet from the high water mark. No tree will be cut within 20 feet of the high water mark. All qualifying trees were counted toward leave tree requirements.

RMA Cutting: All timber above the RMA's perimeter will be cut subject to the following constraints. The timber above the RMA will be directionally fell along the contours of the slope and to the best lie to minimize soil disturbance and to prevent logs from sliding into the RMA. High stumps will be left where necessary to help hold logs above the RMA.

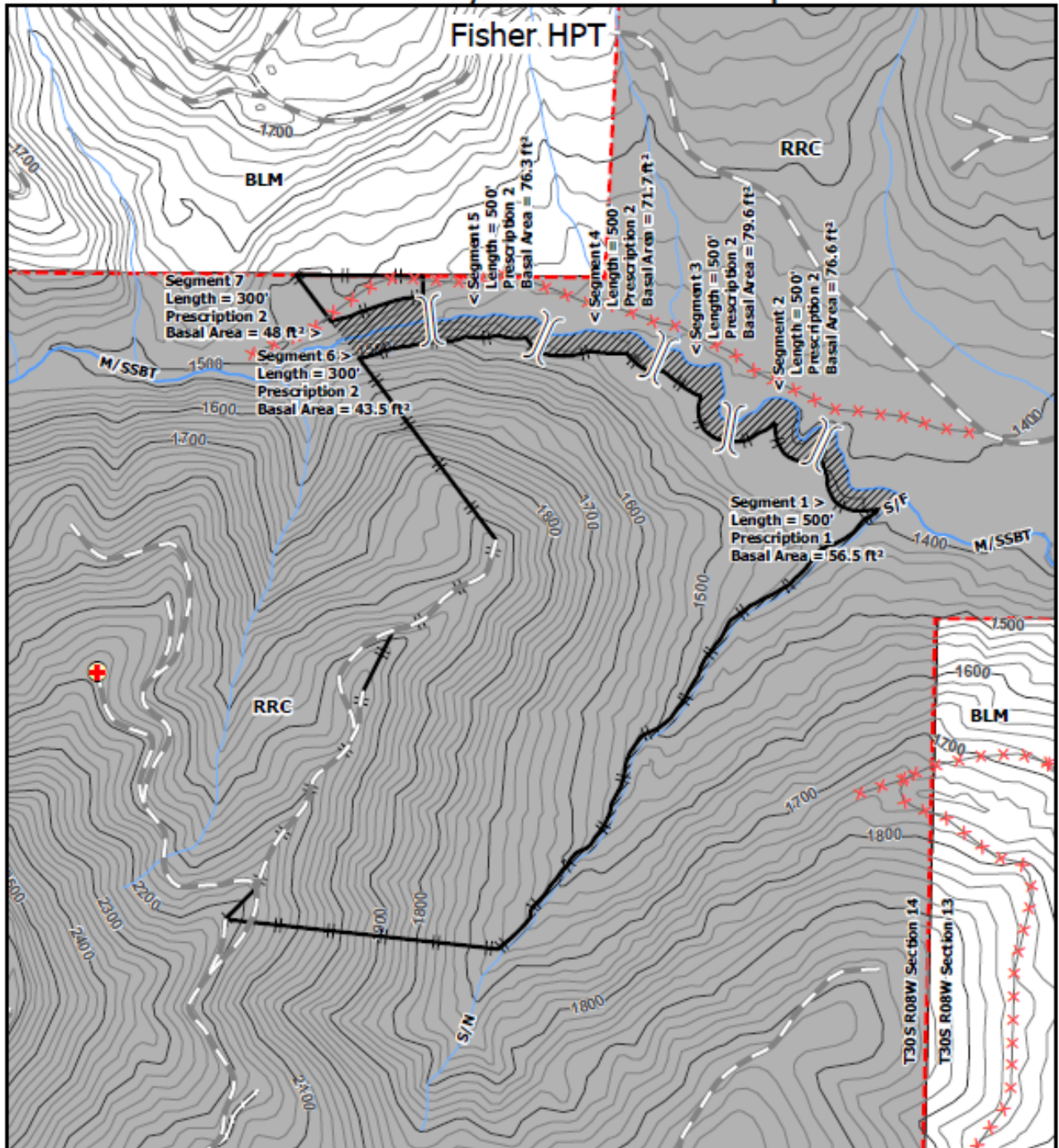
RMA Protection: If it's necessary to hang through the RMA to achieve adequate deflection to log within the unit boundary. RRC chooses not to cut RMA corridor trees in most instances to prevent damage as allowed in the rules, but rather minimize damage to existing trees within the post-harvest treed RMA. RRC believes this will yield better results toward meeting RMA Desired Future Condition. No damage to soil or understory vegetation will occur within 10 feet of the protected stream as required by rule (629-640-0000 (7)). Contractor will maximize lateral yarding capabilities to minimize the number of logging roads that hang through the RMA. Road layouts will be re-spoiled and restrung through RMAs on each road change. Contract logger will be responsible for not removing dead and downed material within the RMAs. If a corridor has to be cut through the RMA for safety, none of the trees will be taken, we will try to pick natural openings to minimize corridor width and damage to any vegetation. Logs and large debris (limbs, tops) that enter the stream will be removed progressively with logging operations.

Michael Williams
Contract Supervisor

1/10/2023
Date



Anti Gravity SSBT RMA Map



Roseburg

Unit Name: Anti Gravity
Source No: 1867
Legal: 30S08W14
Unit Acres: 64

0 500 Feet
1" = 100'

M/SSBT - 2800
7 Segments

- Gate
- Heli Pond
- Waterhole
- Paved Road
- Rocked Road
- Dirt Road
- Jeep Trail
- Impassable Road
- Cutting Boundary
- Wildlife Tree Area
- Riparian Management Area

Landowner: RRC
Collateral Pool: FCL
Depletion Pool: RR

Medical Evacuation

Latitude & Longitude
42° 57.9063', 123° 36.9709'

Regulated Use: DG-1

Date: 10/6/2021





11

Olalla Creek

T30S R8W

14

23



NOTIFICATION OF OPERATIONS/PERMIT TO OPERATE POWER-DRIVEN MACHINERY (NOAP)

Notification Number: 2023-730-00890

Operation Name: Anti Gravity #1867



This NOAP includes the following for the lands described in the NOAP:

The notifier has given notice to the State Forester that an operation will be conducted.

The Oregon Department of Forestry or local Forest Protective Association has issued a permit to use fire or operate power-driven machinery.

Before you use fire, contact the local office of the Oregon Department of Forestry or Forest Protective Association to see if additional burn permit and/or Smoke Management Program regulations apply.

The notifier has given notice to the State Forester and the Department of Revenue of the intent to harvest timber.

Person Submitting the NOAP: RRC Operations

Date NOAP Submitted: January 10, 2023

Report Generated: June 28, 2023

Waiting Period

You must wait at least 15 days after successful submittal of this NOAP before starting the activities in the NOAP (see OAR 629-605-0150(1)). You may ask the Stewardship Forester to waive this 15-day waiting period, *but you must wait the full 15 days unless the Stewardship Forester notifies you that you may start sooner.*

Oregon Department of Forestry Contact Info

Roseburg
1758 NE Airport Rd
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
Phone: (541) 440-3412
Stewardship Forester: Kyle Temple
Email: kyle.r.temple@odf.oregon.gov

Operator's Fire Emergency Contact

Contact Name: Michael Williams
Phone: 541-643-8787

Landowner(s)

Roseburg Resources Company
PO Box 1088
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
541-679-3311

Notice to Landowner(s)

Reforestation may be required after timber harvesting. The Oregon Department of Forestry may conduct on-site inspections for compliance with forest practice and fire protection laws. Land use conversion to non-forest use is subject to other state and local regulations, which may affect use or development of a site.

Timber Owner

Roseburg Resources Company
PO Box 1088
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
541-679-3311

Notice to Timber Owner

If timber is harvested, the party owning the timber at the point it is first measured is responsible for payment of Oregon timber taxes.

Written Plans

A Written Plan (in addition to this NOAP) is required before operation activities can begin near the protected resources listed with the Unit information or Site Conditions below or otherwise described to you by the Stewardship Forester ([OAR 629-605-0170](#) (2), (3), and (5)). The Written Plan must describe in detail how the resource(s) will be protected during the operation. There is a waiting period for Written Plans that is separate from the notification waiting period. Contact your Stewardship Forester for more information.



Formal Comments from Oregon Department of Forestry

Kyle Temple on 2/21/2023

Regarding the uploaded Written Plan for an Alternate Practice modifying: OAR 629-630-0150(5) and OAR 629-630-0500(4), involving conducting a tethered logging operation on steep erosion prone slopes within 100' of a stream and on HLHL with no public safety exposure: This plan is approved.

Kyle Temple on 1/25/2023

Statutory Written Plan required for an operation within 100 feet of a Type SSBt, F or Type D stream: After reviewing your written plan, I offer you the following comments. Fully implementing this written plan is likely to achieve the resource protection standards. This operation will be evaluated on the basis of how well required practices are applied and how well required resource protection is achieved.

Kyle Temple on 1/11/2023

FPA protected resources office review complete.

This operation appears to be within the RMA of Olalla Creek (M/SSBt) and the RMA of an unknown tributary to Olalla Creek (S/F) which are required to be protected. Written plans are required to address protection measures needed for any operation which takes place within the RMA of a Type F or D stream (M/SSBt = 80'; S/F = 50'). The required written plan was received with the notification. The 14-day public comment period started the day the plan was received.

No other resource concerns at this time.

Site Conditions (reported by the Notifier)

Stream within 100 feet of area.

Notices

Submitting this Notification of operations on lands described in the NOAP constitutes consent for Department staff to access the property to ensure compliance with state law and rules governing forest practices through on-site inspections. The landowner must notify the stewardship forester to withdraw this consent.

Permission from Landowner and Timber Owner Required for Operators, purchasers, contractors, general public: Submitting this notification does *not* give permission for operators, purchasers, contractors, or the general public to enter someone else's land or remove forest products. Anyone doing so must first obtain permission from the landowner and timber owner.

Pesticide Use: Pesticide users must follow all pesticide product label requirements, including any that prohibit applications near or into streams or other water bodies! Pesticide users must be sure the label that comes with the pesticide product allows the planned use! Contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture [here](#) or at 503-986-4635 for information on allowed uses of pesticide products.

Operations Near Utility Lines: If you are conducting timber harvesting or road construction within 100 feet of overhead utility lines contact the local utility in accordance with ORS 757.805 - Oregon's Overhead Safety Act and OAR 437-007-0230 - Power Line Safeguards. Identification tags are located on each pole.

Call the Oregon Utility Notification Center at 811 at least 2 business days before starting timber harvesting, road construction, or any other activities involving excavation that may affect an underground utility line. The Center will coordinate with the appropriate utility companies to locate underground utility lines that may be affected by your activities.

Using Water for Pesticides or Slash Burning: If you plan to use on-site water (water from a stream, for example) to mix pesticides or for slash burning, you must provide a copy of this NOAP to the local offices of the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (see ORS 537.141).

Registrants & Subscribers: There may be registrants and/or subscribers who receive this Notification. See the Notification Summary page within the E-Notification system or contact ODF for more details.

NOAP Changes: The notifier must inform the Oregon Department of Forestry of any changes in a NOAP before the activity takes place. A new NOAP may be required.



Unit 1 of 2: Anti Gravity #1867

63.9 acres Douglas County(s) T30S R8W Sec14 Regulated Use Area: DG-1

Operator: Austin Weber Weber Logging and Construction Inc P.O. Box 2236 Roseburg, Oregon 97470 (541) 496-0727	Activity: Clearcut/Overstory Removal Start: 1/25/2023 End: 12/31/2023	Method(s): Cable, Ground Quantity: 1348.00 MBF
Operator: RRC Forestry Roseburg Resources Co PO Box 1088 Roseburg, Oregon 97470 (541) 679-3311	Activity: Treatment of Slash Start: 1/31/2023 End: 12/31/2023	Method(s): Manual, Mechanical, Burning - piles

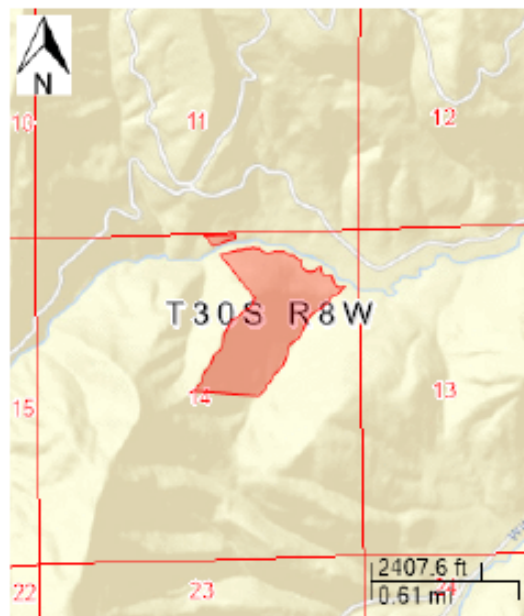
Resources on or near this Unit

Statutory Written Plan required within 100 feet of	Statutory Written Plan required within 300 feet of
Olalla Creek: Medium - Type F Stream	
Unknown: Small - Type F Stream	
Olalla Creek: Medium - SSBT Stream	

Notes:

1. A statutory written plan is required for operations within 300 feet of Estuarine or Marine Wetlands, not 100 feet as may be shown above.
2. Contact your Stewardship Forester about streams not shown on the map.

Unit Map: Anti Gravity #1867





Unit 2 of 2: Anti Gravity RMA

6.8 acres Douglas County(s)

T30S R8W Sec14

Regulated Use Area: DG-1

Operator:

Austin Weber
Weber Logging and
Construction Inc
P.O. Box 2238
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
(541) 496-0727

Activity: Clearcut/Overstory Removal

Start: 1/24/2023

End: 12/31/2023

Method(s): Cable

Quantity: 0.10 MBF

Resources on or near this Unit

Statutory Written Plan required within 100 feet of

Olalla Creek: Medium - Type F Stream

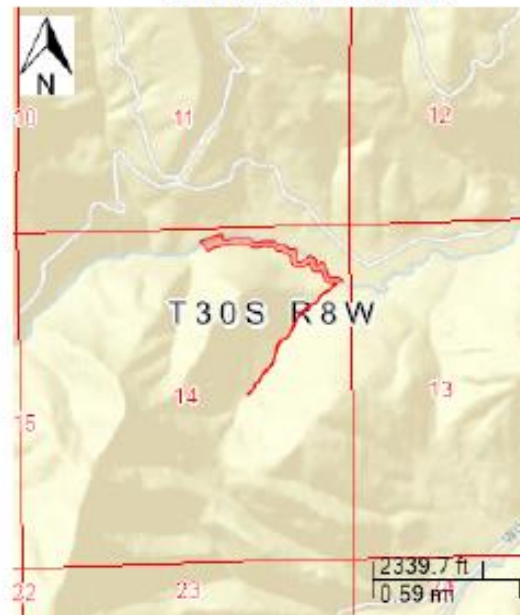
Unknown: Small - Type F Stream

Olalla Creek: Medium - SSBT Stream

Statutory Written Plan required within 300 feet of**Notes:**

1. A statutory written plan is required for operations within 300 feet of Estuarine or Marine Wetlands, not 100 feet as may be shown above.
2. Contact your Stewardship Forester about streams not shown on the map.

Unit Map: Anti Gravity RMA



STOP #3

DON HAMANN, INC.

SW Oregon Regional Forest Practices Committee

Operator of the Year Tour – October 12th, 2023





2023 Operator Recognition Program – Nomination Form

AWARD CATEGORY: *Operator of the Year / Merit Award*

REGION (NW/SW/East): SW

DISTRICT: SWO Medford

NOMINATED BY: Marcus Havniear

OPERATOR INFORMATION AND MAILING ADDRESS:

Operator Company Name: Don Hamman INC.
Company Address: PO Box 198, Butte Falls, Oregon, 97522
Company Phone No. (541) 821-6849
Company Email: cah5995@gmail.com
Company Primary Contact Name (Owner): Don Hamann
Contact Cell Phone No. (541) 821-6849
Contacts Email: cah5995@gmail.com

Operation Information (*Operation as example of work with RFPC tour*)

Activities: Harvest (X) Site Prep () Reforestation () Road Construction ()
Stand Management () Other () _____

Date of Operation: 3/21/2023

NOAP No. 2023-711-02309

Location of Operation (Legal Desc & Landmark): Ashland Oregon T39S R1E S16. Ashland loop rd.

General Description of Operation: Salvage/Commercial thinning. The operation consisted of a suppressed and overstocked stand of timber that was showing signs of mortality due to bark beetle infestation. A major trail system runs through the property and it is a highly visible corridor to the public. The thinning also serves as a key location for a fire break that would benefit the entire community. Even though there were no FPA protected resources on the site, due to the high public exposure it is an excellent example to the traveling public of what quality forest management should look like.

What were the protected resources involved and efforts involved: Public safety was a critical element on this unit because this unit has a major trail system running through the operation and receives substantial public use. The soil at the site is mostly decomposed granite and all efforts were made to mitigate as much soil disturbance as possible.

Criteria of Award Nomination

Describe Operator's Consistency in performance over the years (use examples):

Don has a reputation for being an outstanding operator and member of the Butte Falls Community. I first got to know Don and see his work when conducting post operation inspections of



the Obenchain Fire Salvage. Don's property was impacted by the fire. He worked with his neighbors to conduct salvage operations across the neighborhood in the aftermath of the fire. The residents of Obenchain road who were affected by the fire and elected to salvage their property all spoke highly of Don and his commitment to their forest. Don continues to play an integral part of the Butte Falls Community Forest. The community of Butte Falls recently acquired land surrounding the town and are in the process of implementing their forest management plan. Don has provided outstanding operational guidance and continues to be a key part of the management process. Between the work around his neighborhood and the community of Butte Falls, Don finds time to salvage dead standing timber on properties around Jackson County. This work reduces the fuel loading on the landscape, mitigates future pest problems, and improves the overall health and appearance of the stands. Don's work around homesites dictates a soft touch on the landscape and an eye for aesthetics. Don's friendly disposition, dedication to forest health, and keen eye for resource protection make him a standout operator in the Rogue Valley. Nomination for Operator of the year is long overdue for Don. (Ben Walen, SWO Stewardship Forester.)

Don has worked for countless landowners over the years, and they all have a unique experience with him. He is an example operator when it comes to best management practices and quality work. His role in his community is for the benefit of others and to leave the forest in a better state than he found it. Don is always willing to help someone with their property and his reputation speaks for itself. In the short time I have known Don, it has always been a pleasure to see the high-quality work he and his crew does. I could not think of a better operator to receive this award. (Marcus Havnier, SWO Stewardship Forester.)

Don Haman has been deeply involved with strong land stewardship and resource utilization. For several years, he had a hog fuel manufacturing site that would grind slash piles into hog fuel to further utilize fiber that would otherwise be burned. Don has also been a leader with small woodland landowners demonstrating how small acreages could be managed for timber production, wildlife, and wildfire resilience. His property on Obenchain Road was almost park like prior to the South Obenchain fire in 2020. On top of all that Don is one of the nicest, most pleasant people a person could wish to meet. (Doug Thackery, SWO Stewardship Forester.)

Describe the **Difficulty** and complexity of the operation nominated as well as past operations in regard to protection of forest resources: The difficulty of this operation came in the form of public safety. The operation would have to stop periodically in order to continue to allow access to the traveling public along the Ashland loop road, which is also a large trail system. It required Don and his crew to constantly be on the lookout for the safety of others.

Describe how the operator was **Innovative/Extra Efforts** (including matching equipment to the job) or used extra effort on this operation and then Past Operations: This operation took place on a site where soil disturbance, and low impact to the road were top priorities. Slash mats were used to walk equipment over in the areas where ground base harvesting took place. Water bars were installed at higher frequencies to allow appropriate drainage at critical locations.

Describe **Results** in resource protection and forest management benefits: Don is a Salvage/Thinning expert. His examples of selectively logged units display what any forester would call a healthy stand. This unit had a high outbreak and mortality from Flat headed wood



borers which caused the stand to be highly vulnerable to wildfire and continued outbreak. Don went into the stand and selected the trees with the best genetics to be left on site for future production. He was able to salvage a good majority of the trees affected by pests. Through slash treatment, the remainder of the unit was piled and burned. The result is a genetically superior, well-spaced, healthy stand of timber. It is a key location to assist firefighters in catching a fire if the event were to take place.

Describe the ***Financial Risk assumed by the operator*** as well as how much influence the landowner had on this operation: As we all know, time is money. The periods where Don and his crew would have to "brake for traffic", meaning the mountain bikers and hikers traveling along the trail was a loss of that valuable time. Don knew this before starting the operation and was willing to accept that lost time and money, just to see the benefit of a healthy forest and to keep people safe.

OTHER INFO that should be known for consideration to help form a solid picture of your nominee:

Landowner of Operation listed above:

Agency/Company:
Contact Name: Seth Rand
Title: Land Owner
Email: sethrrand@gmail.com
Phone No. 1-(615) 504-8628

Nominator(s):

Name: Marcus Havniear
Agency/Company: ODF SWO
Title: Stewardship Forester
Email: marcus.havniear@odf.oregon.gov
Phone No. (541) 951-8927

Name:
Agency/Company:
Title:
Email:
Phone No. ()



NOTIFICATION OF OPERATIONS/PERMIT TO OPERATE POWER-DRIVEN MACHINERY (NOAP)

Notification Number: 2023-711-02309
Operation Name: S Rand 2023 #1



This NOAP includes the following for the lands described in the NOAP:

The notifier has given notice to the State Forester that an operation will be conducted.

The Oregon Department of Forestry or local Forest Protective Association has issued a permit to use fire or operate power-driven machinery.

Before you use fire, contact the local office of the Oregon Department of Forestry or Forest Protective Association to see if additional burn permit and/or Smoke Management Program regulations apply.

The notifier has given notice to the State Forester and the Department of Revenue of the intent to harvest timber.

Person Submitting the NOAP: David Erickson
Date NOAP Submitted: February 11, 2023
Report Generated: June 27, 2023

Waiting Period

You must wait at least 15 days after successful submittal of this NOAP before starting the activities in the NOAP (see OAR 629-605-0150(1)). You may ask the Stewardship Forester to waive this 15-day waiting period, *but you must wait the full 15 days unless the Stewardship Forester notifies you that you may start sooner.*

Oregon Department of Forestry Contact Info

Medford
5286 Table Rock Rd
Central Point, Oregon 97502
Phone: (541) 864-3328
Stewardship Forester: Marcus Havniar
Email: marcus.havniar@odf.oregon.gov

Operator's Fire Emergency Contact

Contact Name: Don Hamann
Phone: 541-821-8849

Landowner(s)

Seth Rand
750 N Laurel St
Ashland, Oregon 97520
615-504-8628

Notice to Landowner(s)

Reforestation may be required after timber harvesting. The Oregon Department of Forestry may conduct on-site inspections for compliance with forest practice and fire protection laws. Land use conversion to non-forest use is subject to other state and local regulations, which may affect use or development of a site.

Timber Owner

Don Hamann
P.O. Box 198
Butte Falls, Oregon 97522
541-821-8849

Notice to Timber Owner

If timber is harvested, the party owning the timber at the point it is first measured is responsible for payment of Oregon timber taxes.

Written Plans

A Written Plan (in addition to this NOAP) is required before operation activities can begin near the protected resources listed with the Unit information or Site Conditions below or otherwise described to you by the Stewardship Forester ([OAR 629-605-0170](#) (2), (3), and (5)). The Written Plan must describe in detail how the resource(s) will be protected during the operation. There is a waiting period for Written Plans that is separate from the notification waiting period. Contact your Stewardship Forester for more information.



Formal Comments from Oregon Department of Forestry

Marcus Havnear on 3/21/2023

Spoke with operator and landowner about harvest and found no FPA issues.

Marcus Havnear on 2/13/2023

Resource review complete. No FPA protected resources. Be sure to follow all smoke management guidelines.

Site Conditions (reported by the Notifier)

Slope of steepest 1/3 area: 25 %.

Notices

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Permission from Landowner and Timber Owner Required for Operators, purchasers, contractors, general public: Submitting this notification does *not* give permission for operators, purchasers, contractors, or the general public to enter someone else's land or remove forest products. Anyone doing so must first obtain permission from the landowner and timber owner.

Pesticide Use: Pesticide users must follow all pesticide product label requirements, including any that prohibit applications near or into streams or other water bodies! Pesticide users must be sure the label that comes with the pesticide product allows the planned use! Contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture [here](#) or at 503-986-4635 for information on allowed uses of pesticide products.

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Registrants & Subscribers: There may be registrants and/or subscribers who receive this Notification. See the Notification Summary page within the E-Notification system or contact ODF for more details.

NOAP Changes: The notifier must inform the Oregon Department of Forestry of any changes in a NOAP before the activity takes place. A new NOAP may be required.



Unit 1 of 1: 2023 #1

20.1 acres Jackson County(s) T39S R1E Sec16 Regulated Use Area: SW-1

Operator: Don Hamann Don Hamann, Inc. PO Box 198 Butte Falls, Oregon 97522 (541) 821-8849	Activity: Salvage Start: 4/3/2023 End: 7/31/2023 Remarks: Salvage of dead and dying timber	Method(s): Ground Quantity: 20.00 MBF
Operator: Don Hamann Don Hamann, Inc. PO Box 198 Butte Falls, Oregon 97522 (541) 821-8849	Activity: Use of Fire Start: 10/31/2023 End: 12/30/2023 Remarks: Burn landing piles	Method(s): Burn Piles Quantity: 2.00 Acres

Unit Map: 2023 #1











In Oregon Timber Country, a Town Buys the Surrounding Forests to Confront Climate-Driven Wildfires

A logger, forester and former mayor joined forces to help Butte Falls manage its forests to protect the town and build an economy supported by tourism rather than logging.

By Grant Stringer
July 9, 2023



Don Hamann discusses the age and condition of a felled tree in the Butte Falls Community Forest during the regular Community Forest Chat on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Credit: Amanda Loman

This story is produced in partnership with Columbia Insight, an environmental news outlet covering the Columbia River Basin.

BUTTE FALLS, Oregon—With a population of just 400 people, Butte Falls is a speck in an ocean of remote timberland, much of it burned.

The community is tucked into a vast forest of pine and fir about 35 miles from the California border. Outside town, snow-capped Mt. McLoughlin towers above a vast burn scar, where blackened trees from the South Obenchain Fire stand crookedly across miles of the Cascade Range's foothills.



In September 2020, logger Don Hamann watched with awe as that blaze cast embers over his head in the middle of the night. Hamann, 70, ignored an evacuation notice to protect his property and that of his neighbors on a woody rise above Butte Falls.

In the light of day, Hamann could see the smoke from a separate fire burning thousands of homes in nearby Ashland and Talent, and further to the north, yet another blaze leveled the mountain community of Blue River. The Obenchain would burn 33,000 acres and skirted Butte Falls by just a quarter of a mile.

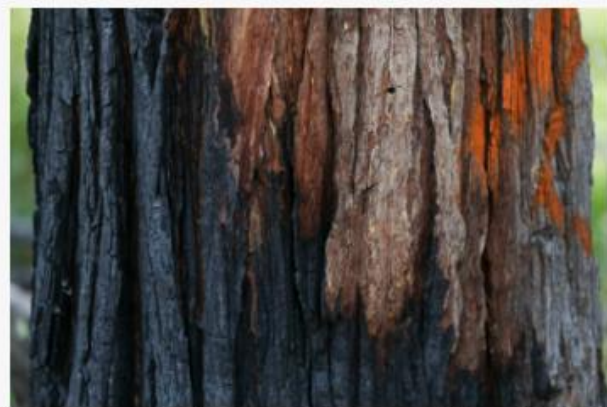
"You can't stop it," Hamann recalls. "It was amazing."

Butte Falls residents disproportionately live with disabilities or in mobile homes, risk factors that make it difficult to prepare and evacuate from wildfires that have become increasingly destructive. The hamlet itself, once a logging powerhouse, is still struggling to provide residents with good-paying jobs more than 40 years after the local timber industry began its long decline. Almost 10 percent of Butte Falls residents left town between 2010 and 2021.

Conventional wisdom in the region would have Butte Falls try to reclaim its former glory as a logging hub. But community leaders have hatched an ambitious plan to protect their future by looking to the forest itself as a source of protection as much as prosperity.



The town of Butte Falls, Oregon, sits on a tract of BLM land outside of Butte Falls on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Credit: Amanda Loman



A tree burned by the South Obenchain Fire of 2020 on a tract of BLM land outside of Butte Falls on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Amanda Loman

The town government recently purchased a ring of privately owned timberland surrounding Butte Falls. Instead of harvesting the land—which could provide an immediate, short-term boon to the town economy—locals want to grow an older and biodiverse forest that they say will better protect the town from wildfires, while attracting outdoor tourism.

Conservationists and the state's top politicians say the small project playing out in a remote corner of Pacific Northwest forest can teach other communities how to adapt to climate disasters and hard times.

A New Vision

The 2018 blaze that killed at least 85 people in Paradise, California was a wakeup call for Linda Spencer, who was the mayor of Butte Falls at the time.

At that point, Butte Falls was completely surrounded by about 400 acres of timberland that didn't have much value for the community itself. Modern timber companies had rejected the practice of sustainable harvesting—low-intensity logging that provided a dependable supply of timber for future generations and, crucially, steady paychecks. A string of companies since the 1980s intensively harvested parts of the land or let it grow wild, resulting in a dangerously dense and young forest on the community's doorstep, a serious fire risk, according to Mike Smeltz, a veteran local forester.

Smeltz, Hamann and Spencer shared a new vision for the land. The logger, forester and former mayor believed that, if the town bought the forest, it could thin and burn unwanted foliage to cultivate open groves of old-growth trees resilient to wildfire and drought. It's a strategy **some environmentalists want to implement across U.S. forests** to sequester carbon, promote biodiversity and blunt severe wildfires—and one recently planned in Paradise itself as it rebuilds in California.

In the new Butte Falls Community Forest, local foresters could build a trail network and recreation amenities near a roaring waterfall to bring outdoor tourism to town, providing incomes without relying on dwindling timber jobs. For Hamann, who has decades of experience in sustainable forestry projects, a beautiful forest is a more valuable asset in the long run than the timber from a clear cut, particularly if it's your backyard. Spencer, the former mayor, sees the project as a way for the community to assert control of a resource that is critical to the town's future and the quality of its environment.

"The idea is, we didn't want someone else managing the forest around us," she says. "We wanted to manage it ourselves."



A sign advertising the Community Forest Chat in Butte Falls, Oregon on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Credit: Amanda Loman

When the Seattle-based timber giant Weyerhaeuser informed the Butte Falls City Hall of plans to clear-cut and sell the cleared parcels surrounding the town, likely to another timber company, Spencer jumped at the opportunity to create a community-owned forest instead. The town purchased the 400-odd acres of woods last year for about \$1.1 million with assistance from the Trust for Public Land, a conservation nonprofit. The cost was entirely covered by grants and donations, mostly from the Oregon state government and the U.S. Forest Service.

Hamann and several experts told Inside Climate News that Weyerhaeuser is dropping assets in much of southern Oregon because of **climate-driven tree die-offs** and wildfires, which would mark another notch in the industry's decline. A spokesperson for Weyerhaeuser declined to comment for this story.



Changing Climate, Changing Community

Destinies in Butte Falls were always linked to the forest.

The Butte Falls Sugar Pine Company built a sawmill and platted the town in 1906, according to historian Jeff LaLande. The firm took its name from the giant conifer of high cultural and religious value for the Achomawi people. After colonization, loggers prized sugar pines for their smooth, straight timber.



Coffee mugs with personalized names on them for regulars at the Sugar Pine Company Cafe in Butte Falls, Oregon on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Credit: Amanda Loman



Don Hamann, left, speaks with Darwin Moore, 91, a retired forester at the Sugar Pine Company Cafe before the Community Forest Chat on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Credit: Amanda Loman

In the 1980s, a Texas millionaire gutted the company that for decades had provided steady employment in Butte Falls. Almost all prized timber was cut and the mill sold, [LaLande writes](#). Smeltz, 68, moved to Butte Falls in the 1970s and watched the company's liquidation plunge the town into a deep economic decline that it never truly recovered from, the forester said. It's a familiar story across the Pacific Northwest.

"People didn't have good jobs anymore," he said. "When I came to town, the tavern was rockin', alcohol was the drug of choice. Now, heroin is the drug of choice. Now it's fentanyl."

Smeltz embarked on a 40-year career in forestry, including 28 years with the U.S. Forest Service. While Butte Falls changed, Smeltz watched the forests change around him. The climate in southern Oregon turned dry and hot, consistent with projections of human-caused climate change.

Firs in the region **are dying en masse** due to drought and insects, pock-marking the green forests of the Cascades with brown sores that easily burn, [Columbia Insight](#) reported. Douglas firs, the state tree, which is high-value timber, **are being replaced** by species that are more resilient to drought.

Climate science is unpopular in Butte Falls, which is staunchly conservative, Smeltz says. But when a group of locals visited the new community forest on a recent Saturday, there was broad agreement that the climate is less hospitable for certain conifers than it once was.



Left: Community members talk while attending the Community Forest chat in Butte Falls, Oregon on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Top Right: Mike Smeltz, left, forest manager for the Community Forest, and community member Stan Moore examine the rings on the stump of a tree felled by vandalism. Bottom Right: Smeltz and Moore look closer at the rings on the stump. Credit: Amanda Loman

Hamann had convened the meeting with a handful of residents as part of his weekly "forest chats," where he describes his vision and seeks community buy-in over the roar of the falls.

On the warm afternoon, Hamann drew the group's attention to a grove of century-old firs and pines. It's the only mature forest remaining in the town-owned parcels and the first portion that would age enough to provide the biodiversity and wildfire resilience he envisions.

But much of the forest encircling Butte Falls is made up of young "ladder fuels," a term in fire ecology for mid-sized foliage and low limbs that spread fire from the forest floor up to the canopy, where it is impossible to smother.

The town wouldn't stand much of a chance if the forest around it burned in its current state, Stan Moore, another local retired from a career in forestry, told the others, who nodded grimly.

If Butte Falls can weather this fire season, Smeltz will lead efforts to thin the forest by cutting down young trees and deadlimbs, which will be piled and burned. That will help the largest trees, including mighty ponderosa pines towering above the thicket, to continue flourishing. The town already secured \$450,000 from the Oregon Department of Forestry and another \$450,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for this work, according to Smeltz.

The community has partnered with Chris Adlam, an expert on prescribed burns with Oregon State University, to reintroduce low-intensity ground fires as often as once a year to mimic the natural fire cycle in the forest and further reduce the dangerous overload of woody fuels, he says.



Inside the town borders, Butte Falls is removing dangerous vegetation and ignition sources as part of the national Firewise USA network. Mayor Trish Callahan said more work and education is planned to help prepare residents for the next wildfire.



Butte Falls mayor Trish Callahan addresses the group during a regular Community Forest Chat in the forest on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Credit: Amanda Loman

‘The Future of Natural Resources’

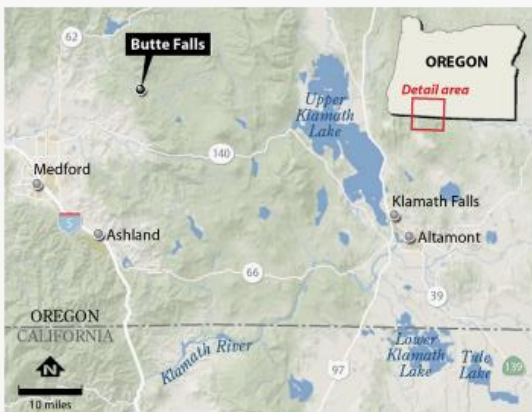
When he grew up in Cottage Grove, an Oregon community rocked by the so-called timber wars between loggers and environmentalists in the 1990s, Kelly Droege watched disagreements over land management turn nasty, pitting residents against each other.

Droege obtained a Master’s degree in forestry from the Yale School of the Environment and in 2018 founded Chinook Forest Partners, which manages 215,000 acres for timber companies in Oregon and Washington. The company’s portfolio briefly included the ring of forest surrounding Butte Falls.

He thinks deeply about the relationships rural communities have with forests and views Butte Falls as a case study in striking a balance between new and old ideas.

“This is the future of how we view management of natural resources,” Droege says.

When she was in office, former Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, visited Butte Falls and designated it part of Oregon Solutions, a statewide policy network that fosters community-based solutions to thorny problems like high unemployment and wildfire danger. The state’s Democratic U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley penned a letter expressing his support for the community forest and his staff have walked its stands of fir and pine, says Smeltz.



SOURCE: ESRI

PAUL HORN / Inside Climate News

The project resonated in high places in part because of political acumen on the part of Spencer, the former mayor, who worked in the Environmental Protection Agency and the United Nations before retiring to Butte Falls.

Owen Wozniak, a program manager at the Land Trust Alliance, lauded Butte Falls’ work. But he said Spencer’s political connections and assistance from the Trust for Public Land make its example somewhat unusual.

“Most small communities just can’t access the resources and lack the financial and human capital to tackle such things,” he says. “There are thousands of communities across the West who need similar efforts. So it’s exemplary, but still too limited.”

Nonetheless, plans like those in Butte Falls are playing out across the region, from nearby Ashland, which has **its own community-based model of fire adaptation**, to Washington State as foresters and economic development experts push for new solutions in at-risk communities.

Nationally, there’s an excitement among conservationists and climate advocates that rural areas can leverage public lands to keep their communities functioning and safe from the most immediate hazards posed by the climate crisis. Towns have taken ownership of forests in Montana, Virginia and Vermont for a range of purposes, including wildfire resilience, but Butte Falls’ approach is “pretty unique,” says Chris Dunn, an associate professor in Oregon State’s College of Forestry.

Butte Falls also benefits from the brain trust of Hamann, Smeltz, Moore and others who spent decades in forestry and logging. And Dunn said it’s rare that a community can legally buy all the land immediately around it. Towns in fire country often abut public or tribal land or are constrained by an urban growth boundary, he said.



The Butte Falls Community Forest on Saturday, June 10, 2023. The stand of 100-year-old Douglas Fir trees had the underbrush thinned earlier this year. Credit: Amanda Loman

But Dunn said the work in Butte Falls to prevent homes from igniting, coupled with adequate management in the community forest, could offer significant protection to the town in future fire seasons.

After the community meeting, Hamann took a walking stick in each hand and traversed a section of the Obenchain Fire burn scar on a rise above town. Lupines and Indian paintbrush poked out of a dense understorey that sprung up after the blaze. Above, massive sugar pines and incense cedars stood blackened as high as 50 feet up their trunks. But they were still alive.

“This stand right here survived about as tough a condition as you can possibly survive,” Hamann said.

His hope is that Butte Falls can become just as resilient.

SOUTHWEST OREGON REGIONAL FOREST PRACTICES COMMITTEE: NEXT STEPS

- Viewing Nomination video
- Utilize the score card to score each of the nominations
- Committee members discussion for Operator of the Year
- Committee members vote for selection of Operator of the Year
- Committee members discussion on Merit Award awards for any Operator of the Year nominee not selected as Oper of Yr winner
- Vote for Merit Award recognition winners

