

**WESTERN LANE DISTRICT  
2018 ANNUAL  
OPERATIONS PLAN**

# WESTERN LANE DISTRICT

## DRAFT 2018 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

### OVERVIEW

This overview describes the planned activities that Oregonians can expect to see on Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) managed land located in Lane County, Oregon. The ODF managed land in Lane County differs from other state forest districts in that it is smaller (25,500 acres) and the ownership pattern is fragmented into numerous small blocks. This ‘fragmented’ ownership pattern is common to all landowner types in Western Lane county – both public and private. Managing forestland on smaller fragmented parcels can offer unique challenges, however there is still ample opportunity to provide a mixture of environmental, economic and social benefits to the citizens of Oregon.

The Western Lane Annual Operations Plan (AOP) is divided into five major categories: Integrated Forest Management, Planning Activities, Information Systems, Public Information and Education, Administration, and Appendices. Specific details for items in each of these categories are described using a combination of tables and written narratives. The intent of this overview is to briefly summarize some of the items identified in the five categories so that the reader can more efficiently review the proposed activities in the 2018 AOP.

ODF requested review and comments on our plan from others, including the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (representing the counties that deeded land to ODF), the State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC - composed of Oregonians representing many interests), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, motorized and non-motorized recreation users, hunters, fishermen, and wildlife advocates, as well as Oregonians in general.

#### **A short summary of activities planned for the coming year:**

- Implementing the new 2017 Implementation Plan.
- Conducting vegetation management activities on approximately 342 acres.
- Planting 142,000 seedlings on approximately 342 acres.
- Continuing ‘early detection, rapid response’ strategy for invasive species control.
- Proposing to harvest 12.8 MMBF on 299 acres with an estimated net revenue of \$6,532,400.
- Constructing 1.7 miles of new road, and improving 1 mile of existing road.
- Providing personal firewood cutting opportunities to the members of the surrounding community.
- Conducting approximately 110 marbled murrelet survey visits.
- Conducting monitoring surveys on 7 northern spotted owl sites.
- Conducting operational and/or spot check spotted owl surveys on approximately 22 timber sales.
- Protecting and improving stream habitat through the application of FMP riparian strategies and potential placement of in-stream large woody debris.
- Improving or developing wildlife habitat by creating snags, retaining green trees in clearcut areas, and leaving down wood.
- Planning for and preparing for the 2019 AOP.
- Assist in the transfer of management activities on 11,303 acres of land in Coos and Curry counties from the Coos district to the Western Lane district.

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# WESTERN LANE DISTRICT

## DRAFT 2018 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

This annual operations plan (AOP) covers the State Forest Land managed by the Western Lane District for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18), which begins July 1, 2017 and ends June 30, 2018. This document describes how the activities and projects undertaken by the district will achieve the goals, strategies, and objectives of the NW Oregon Forest Management Plan (FMP) and the Western Lane District Implementation Plan (IP). Refer to the district IP for more specific information on the history, physical characteristics, and other resource information on the district.

This AOP is aligned with Western Lane's IP revised in 2017. The new IP replaced the 2003 IP.

This AOP is divided into five major categories: Integrated Forest Management, Planning and Information Systems, Public Information and Education, Administration, and Appendices.

The proposed harvest operations are planned to be auctioned for sale during the FY18 time period. The actual on-the-ground operations will likely not occur during FY18 due to the time lag associated with contract duration, which could be one to three years after auction. In contrast, reforestation, young stand management, recreation management, and planning activities will be carried out during the FY18 time period.

This AOP underwent a 45-day public comment period. The District Forester considered the comments received during this period and sent back responses as appropriate.

The accomplishments of forest management activities that occurred under previous AOPs can be found in several reports, including the "State Forester's Annual Report for the Association of Oregon Counties, the "Common School Forest Lands Annual Report", and the individual district annual reports (these reports also cover the accomplishments of the Fire Protection and Private Forests Programs). These reports are available through the local district office or through the internet at: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Pages/Reports.aspx>

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## INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT

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### Timber Harvest Operations

#### **Overview of Timber Harvest Operations**

The planned timber harvest operations are within the total acres objective in the Western Lane District IP. Activities in the AOP will allow for stands to be moved toward complex structure and contribute revenue to the counties with the overall average objective of 12 MMBF.

The FY18 harvest operations are estimated to generate gross revenues of approximately \$6,910,400 and net revenues of \$6,560,400. It is estimated that active management will result in producing approximately 12.8 million board feet of volume. In addition to the above revenue and volume, some sales are expected to have pulp removed from sale areas. The amount and value of pulp is difficult to predict during the planning process but will likely occur in areas of regeneration harvest on steep slopes and whole tree yarding systems. This material also has potential for use in biomass operations or to be made available for personal firewood.

Table 1 compares the proposed acres by harvest type<sup>1</sup> in this AOP to the harvest acre ranges specified in the IP. Total planned acres in this AOP are 299 net acres (approximately 1.2% of the district’s total acreage) which achieves the annual volume objective. Harvest activities in this AOP consist of regeneration harvest only. The anticipated harvest acres, volume, and revenue for each proposed operation in this AOP are listed in the “Harvest Operations – Financial Summary” table in Appendix B, while a vicinity map of these harvest operations can be found in Appendix C.

Table 1. Annual Operations Plan objectives compared to Annual Harvest Objectives identified in the Western Lane District Implementation Plan. All values are acres, except for Volume.

Annual Harvest Objectives	IP Annual Objective		2018 AOP
	Low	High	
Volume (MMBF)	12		12.8
Partial Cut Harvest	0	1000	0
Regeneration Harvest	0	450	299

All of the Primary and Alternate harvest operations and many of the other forest management activities have been reviewed by ODF’s wildlife biologists, aquatic specialist, geotechnical engineers, road engineer, and operations coordinator, as well as fish and wildlife biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Information on operations that occur within the provincial circle of northern spotted owl has been provided to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Occasionally, operations may contain a resource or activity where review with another state agency, such as the Department of Agriculture or the Department of State Lands, is warranted. Written comments from the external resource specialists and the resolution of those comments can be found in Appendix D.

Some smaller additional operations targeting infrastructure maintenance will also produce timber volume during the 2018 fiscal year. These small operations are not included as part of the AOP because they affect a very small area, produce little volume or revenue, and do not require significant effort to develop and execute. For example, in the past we have auctioned salvage sales for small quantities of blown down timber located in an area with reasonable operational access. Other examples may include small low value areas where an opportunity to harvest presents itself due to active adjacent harvest, or the removal of hazard trees next to neighboring residences or public roads. These sales will be less than \$100,000 in value and comply with all policies and plans.

Be aware that only limited reconnaissance has been conducted on the proposed FY 2018 sales and that boundaries, volumes, and prescriptions may be modified as field work progresses. Plus, winter storms may cause blowdown that will need to be salvaged in lieu of preparing some of the operations listed.

## Structural Habitat Components

Structural habitat components such as green trees, snags and down woody debris (DWD) are described in Chapter 4 of the NW FMP and may be considered for all harvest prescriptions; however, the emphasis will be placed on regeneration harvest.

The green tree retention target for regeneration harvest units is five trees per acre. Green tree arrangements for this AOP include; scattered individual trees, clumps of trees, and trees concentrated in and adjacent to riparian management areas.

The FMP strategy for hard snags is to manage for at least two per acre on average across the landscape. The need for snag creation for regeneration sales is evaluated on a sale by sale basis.

The FMP strategy for Down Woody Debris is to retain an average of 600 to 900 cubic feet of hard conifer logs (class 1 & 2) per acre during regeneration harvest.

Opportunities for natural recruitment of snags and DWD is created by laminated root rot disease (*Phellinus weirii*). In severe cases of root rot, we attempt to retard the spread of the disease by cutting out the infected trees. In other cases we do not cut out the infected trees. This allows the disease to spread at a rate of approximately one foot per year, slowly adding snags and DWD to the stand. Whether laminated root rot is treated or untreated, we know from experience that additional trees will be infected by the disease, creating snags and eventually DWD.

Within a given annual operations plan, snags and DWD may be retained at higher levels in some units and at lower levels in other units, with the intent of achieving the landscape targets outlined in the Forest Management Plan strategies. Post-harvest DWD results can be attributed to natural recruitment from green tree retention, residual logging slash, and tree topping.

In order to protect water quality during active operations, a variety of methods will be used to prevent sediment from entering live streams. These methods include (but are not limited to) maintaining culverts and other road drainage structures, using sediment control devices in road ditches when necessary, and seasonal restrictions on logging and hauling operations. Culvert installment and replacement in live streams will be conducted between July 1 and Aug. 31. Operations outside of this period will be reviewed by ODF staff specialists and/or ODFW. Riparian management areas result in leave trees adjacent to the stream which protect stream temperature, provide nutrients, protect stream banks, and eventually provide wood to improve fish habitat.

## Summary of Timber Harvest Operations by Basin

Please note that the Western Lane district is considered one basin.

Table 2. Summary of Timber Harvest Operations in each Management Basin. All values are in net acres.

Management Basin	Partial Cut	Clearcut
Western Lane	0	299

- East Chicken: One unit totaling 64 net acres of modified clearcut in an 86 year old Douglas-fir stand. Six trees per acre will be retained to provide future snags, downed wood, and structure. Trees will be left in the riparian areas and scattered in the unit.

About 0.6 miles of rocked spur will be constructed to better access the sale area. The entire sale is in an area designated as desired future condition 'General'.

- Happy Hen: One unit totaling 83 net acres of modified clearcut in an 83 year old Douglas-fir stand. 51 acres of the stand were thinned 11 years ago. Six trees per acre will be retained to provide future snags, downed wood, and structure. Trees will be left in the riparian areas and scattered in the unit. About 0.6 miles of rocked spur will be improved to provide better all-weather access for the sale area. The entire sale is in an area designated as desired future condition 'General'.
- Wildcat: Two units totaling 152 net acres of modified clearcut in an 81 year old Douglas-fir stand. The majority of the stand was thinned 19 years ago. Six trees per acre will be retained to provide future snags, downed wood, and structure. Trees will be left in the riparian areas and scattered in the unit. About 0.5 miles of rocked spur will be constructed and 0.4 miles of road improved to better access the sale areas. The entire sale is in an area designated as desired future condition 'General'.
- Bear Post (Alternate Sale): Two units totaling 61 net acres. One of the two units (14 acres) is a proposed modified clearcut located in 79 year old timber. The other unit (47 acres) is a moderate thinning located in 42 year old timber. In the modified clearcut unit, six trees per acre will be retained to provide for future snags and structure. Said trees will be left scattered across the unit and/or left in green tree retention areas. In the moderate thinning, trees will be thinned from below with an objective to capture mortality and increase future stand growth. Approximately 2.0 miles of road will be improved to access the sale area. The entire sale is in an area designated as desired future condition 'General'.
- By Gally (Alternate Sale): One unit totaling 89 net acres of modified clearcut in 76 year old Douglas-fir stand that was partial cut approximately 20 years ago. Six trees per acre will be retained to provide future snags, downed wood, and structure. Trees will be left in the riparian areas and scattered in clumps or individually within the unit. About 0.2 miles of rocked spur will be improved to provide better all-weather access for the sale area. The entire sale is in an area designated as desired future condition 'General'.
- Cram Cleanup (Alternate Sale): One unit totaling 40 net acres of modified clearcut in 90 year old Douglas-fir stand that was partial cut in 2003. Six trees per acre will be retained to provide future snags, downed wood, and structure. Trees will be left in the riparian areas and scattered in clumps or individually within the unit. About 0.1 miles of rocked spur will be improved to provide better all - weather access. The entire sale is in an area designated as desired future condition 'General'.
- GM Thin (Alternate Sale): One unit totaling 142 net acres of a moderate thinning in 44 year old Douglas-fir. Thinning will be "from below" where the objective is to capture mortality and improve future stand growth. Approximately 0.4 miles of road will be constructed and 0.3 miles will be improved to better access the sale area. The entire sale is in an area designated as desired future condition 'General'.
- Haynes Way (Alternate Sale): Three units totaling 121 net acres of modified clearcut in 70-86 year old Douglas-fir stands. Six trees per acre will be retained to provide future

snags, downed wood, and structure. Trees will be left in the riparian areas and scattered within the unit. About 0.1 miles of rocked spur will be improved to provide better all-weather access. The entire sale is in an area designated as desired future condition 'General'.

- Iron Mountain (Alternate Sale): One unit totaling 78 net acres of modified clearcut in 81 year old Douglas-fir stand. Six trees per acre will be retained to provide future snags, downed wood, and structure. Trees will be left in the riparian areas and scattered in the unit. About 1.0 miles of rocked spur will be constructed and 0.3 miles of road improved to access the sale area. An additional 2 acres outside the sale will be harvested to construct the proposed road. The entire sale is in an area designated as desired future condition 'General'.
- Milk Creek (Alternate Sale): One unit totaling 95 net acres of modified clearcut in 88-95 year old Douglas-fir stands. Six trees per acre will be retained to provide future snags, downed wood, and structure. Trees will be left in the riparian areas and scattered in the unit. About 1.4 miles of rocked spur will be constructed and 0.8 miles of road improved to access the sale area. An additional 2 acres outside the sale will be harvested to construct the proposed road. The entire sale is in an area designated as desired future condition 'General'.
- Tilden Switchback (Alternate Sale): One unit totaling 113 net acres of modified clearcut in 81 year old Douglas-fir and hardwood stand. Six trees per acre will be retained to provide future snags, downed wood, and structure. Trees will be left in the riparian areas and scattered in clumps or individually within the unit. About 0.9 miles of rocked spur will be constructed to provide all-weather access for the sale area. The entire sale is in an area designated as desired future condition 'General'.
- Tilden Two (Alternate Sale): One unit totaling 71 net acres of modified clearcut in 66 year old mixed conifer and hardwood stand. Seven trees per acre will be retained to provide future snags, downed wood, and structure. Trees will be left in retention areas, in or adjacent to the riparian areas, and scattered in the unit. About 0.3 miles of rocked spur will be constructed and 0.5 mile improved to better access the sale area. The entire sale is in an area designated as desired future condition 'General'.

## Forest Roads Management

### **Overview**

The Forest Roads Manual 2000 describes the vision, guiding principles and practices for road construction and maintenance on ODF managed forest land. This AOP describes five categories of road management activities: Construction, improvement, closure/vacation, maintenance, and rock pit development.

Western Lane roads are designed and used to conduct forest management activities. The public should exercise care when driving these roads for other purposes.

Refer to Summary Table A – 3 for the Forest Roads Summary for the 2018 AOP.

## Road Construction

Only limited reconnaissance has been conducted on the proposed FY 2018 sales. Locations and costs may change as field work progresses.

Approximately 1.7 miles of road will be constructed. The estimated cost for the newly constructed roads for each sale is shown in Appendix A. These spurs will be located primarily on ridge tops in stable locations away from streams.

- East Chicken: 1.2 miles
- Wildcat: 0.5 miles

## Road Improvement

This AOP proposes to improve approximately 1.0 miles of road. The estimated costs associated with the proposed improvement activities are shown in Appendix A. Improvement activities will usually consist of re-surfacing and drainage improvement.

- Happy Hen: 0.6 miles
- Wildcat: 0.4 miles

## Road Access Management

Rocked roads are not normally vacated since we want to keep these roads open for forest management purposes, fire protection, and public recreation. Most ODF-controlled roads are ridgetop with little potential for sediment to enter streams.

The East Chicken and Happy Hen timber sales will require a temporary road use agreement for the use of existing haul routes. The Wildcat timber sale access route consists of a permanent easement and ODF controlled roads. Some permanent easements or reciprocal agreements may require separate License Agreements that identify maintenance responsibilities and their associated costs.

ODF controlled roads are usually kept open for public use. However, we retain the option of gating if vandalism, neighbor concerns, or excessive road damage from public use becomes a problem in particular areas.

## Road Maintenance

Roads will be maintained as necessary to protect water quality and the road system asset value. Road maintenance is accomplished by timber sale purchasers, through R/W agreements, and by contracting road maintenance. In addition, small amounts of roadside herbicide applications are done by District personnel or private contractors. The District does not own heavy equipment such as graders, dozers, or backhoes.

On roads not being actively used for timber hauling, the District practices a low level of maintenance by maintaining drainage and keeping encroaching vegetation in check. This keeps roads open in order to conduct forest management activities and maintains access for fire

protection. No attempt is made to maintain smooth running surfaces. In some instances, rather than incurring the expense of continuously pulling ditches, drive-thru waterbars are combined with outsloping to minimize surface erosion caused by water running down wheel tracks caused by public use.

During periodic road inspections and in the course of normal forestry work we look for areas with potential sidecast failures. If found, fixing these areas will be done as part of timber sale contracts or more immediately as separate road maintenance contracts, depending upon the recommendation of the Area geotechnical engineer.

### **Management of Rock Source/Supply**

All rock will be acquired through commercial sources.

### **Land Surveying**

All land surveying for standard sales will be completed before the sales are auctioned. We are planning on surveying approximately 1.0 miles of property line.

### **Young Stand Management**

Refer to Summary Table A – 4 to review the Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary for the 2017 AOP.

### **Site Preparation**

Site preparation consists of creating planting spots and/or reducing brush cover to allow planted seedlings and natural seedlings to become established. Site preparation may include slash burning, slash and brush piling, or herbicide treatment. Vine maple, bigleaf maple, salal, and salmonberry are the primary competing species in most areas. Each completed unit will be evaluated for site preparation needs. At this time we are proposing the following site preparation activities:

Approximately 342 acres may be ground sprayed for site preparation purposes. These acres are located in the Aha Pataha, Tilden Top, Green 10, and Skinny Bear timber sales. Slash burning or piling may also occur in areas where feasible. Estimated costs associated with site preparation are shown in Appendix A.

### **Seedlings / Nurseries**

The district is under contract with two different companies to grow approximately 167,000 Douglas-fir seedlings for outplant in the 2018 planting season. Lewis River Nursery in Woodland, WA is growing the majority of these seedlings. Approximately 60,000 will be “1+1” bare root stock, 30,000 will be container grown “plug” stock, and 10,000 will be “Plug+1” bare root stock.

The remaining 67,000 planned seedlings will be bare root stock coming from several IFA Nurseries. 7,000 of these IFA seedlings were originally ordered by the Coos district and were planted with seed from the Elliot State Forest seed orchard at Schroeder. All other 2018

seedlings were grown from the “Vaughn” improved seed the district purchased from Roseburg Forest Products.

In addition to the seedlings being grown for 2018 outplant, the district is under contract to grow 185,000 seedlings for outplant in 2019. These are all bareroot seedlings that will be transplanted in 2017. 65,000 of these seedlings were originally ordered by Coos district. IFA nurseries, Lewis River Nursery, and Washington DNR are growing these seedlings.

## **Planting**

Tree planting operations are conducted for various reasons. These include meeting Forest Practices Laws and quickly establishing a new stand of trees after timber harvesting. Units are planted primarily with Douglas-fir, which is the dominant naturally occurring species in the area. However, other conifer species are planted in order to provide diversity in the unit and across the landscape. Minor species planted usually consists of western hemlock and western red cedar. Approximately 415 trees per acre will be planted. About 342 acres of initial planting is anticipated. Estimated costs associated with initial planting are shown in Appendix A.

Interplanting is used to raise stocking in young plantations that are below acceptable levels, to a minimum of 300 trees per acre. Surveys are conducted one and two years after initial planting to determine interplanting needs. Where necessary, interplanting is done the following winter. During the spring and fall of 2017 surveys will be conducted to determine interplanting needs for the 2018 planting season. There are no acres currently planned for interplanting, but it is likely that we will conduct interplant operations based on stocking survey results.

## **Vegetation Management**

In some cases, a few years after plantation establishment, competing vegetation threatens the survival of planted seedlings. Competing vegetation is usually salmonberry and vine maple. Excess red alder and/or bigleaf maple may also need to be controlled.

About 138 acres of modified clearcuts may be release sprayed in order to reduce the amount of competition between the existing brush and the seedlings. An evaluation for hack and spray treatment will occur during the summer of 2017. This evaluation may lead to some units receiving a hack and spray treatment in order to control competing vine maple and big leaf maple. Estimated costs associated with vegetation management (i.e. release treatments) are shown in Appendix A.

## **Tree Protection**

Planted conifer is sometimes clipped off by mountain beavers. In other areas deer or elk may bite off the tips. Occasionally the District may encase seedlings in plastic mesh tubes for protection. The district has not trapped mountain beavers, but may consider doing so in heavily populated areas.

No tree protection or trapping is planned. However, examination this summer may show that seedling protection is necessary in some areas.

## **Pre-commercial Thinning**

The district is not planning to precommercially thin (PCT) this fiscal year. There may be limited opportunities for PCT operations if funding became available through increased revenue or grant funds. A detailed review of PCT candidates will take place if funding becomes available. It is estimated that even if there was adequate funding, the Western Lane District would PCT less than 100 acres.

## **Pruning**

No pruning activities are planned for this AOP

## **Invasive Species**

Various noxious weed species such as tansy, scotch broom, false brome, knapweed, Himalayan and evergreen blackberry, and thistles are known to exist on the district. Most of these weeds are found along roads where they were brought in on vehicles or gravel. The district roadside spray program helps control the spread of some of these species, specifically scotch broom and blackberry. Equipment washing will be required in all timber sale contracts, which also helps control the spread of invasive species. In addition, the district will continue to employ an early detection and rapid response strategy for most noxious weeds.

District personnel will control detected invasive species by targeted herbicide application during the season in which chemical treatment is most effective for the specific species. Priority will be placed on treating weeds in areas adjacent to recent clearcut harvest units or young plantations, where invasives would have the most negative impact by competing with planted seedlings. In other areas, priority will be given to the areas of the most severe infestation first, and treatment will cover as much area as workload and personnel time allow during the appropriate treatment season.

## **Roadside Spraying**

The district plans to control roadside vegetation using herbicide this year. District personnel will perform the work using district equipment. The total amount of miles treated will depend on workload and personnel availability, but is expected to be between 15 and 20 miles.

## **Stocking Surveys**

District personnel will conduct stocking surveys on young plantations. This work consists of two types of surveys. "Formal surveys" use a regular grid of plots, typically at one per acre across a unit. "Walk through surveys may include plots on a grid, plots located as determined necessary by district personnel, or observation alone.

The district currently relies on formal surveys to determine survival in a plantation at the end of summer/early fall immediately following planting. This method has allowed district personnel to determine the location of interplant needs within a unit as soon as possible.

The "walk through" survey method is currently used in plantations that are 4-5 years old as means of confirming "free-to-grow" status. These have typically been done in late summer also,

but may be done at other times throughout the year. The district currently plans on continuing to use the two survey methods as they are currently implemented.

## Recreation Management

### **Overview of Recreation Management**

ODF-managed land in Lane County is scattered and not adjacent to areas of high recreational interest. However, State land has a low level of hunting, backroad driving, and personal firewood cutting. Our timber sale activities increase forage for big game and grouse, increase firewood opportunities, and our road building improves recreational access.

### **Facilities (Campgrounds, View Points, Trail Heads, etc.)**

No recreation facilities exist on ODF managed land in Lane County.

### **Trails**

No recognized trails exist on ODF managed land in Lane County.

## Other Integrated Forest Management Projects

### **Aquatic Habitat Improvement**

Several strategies, described in the Forest Management Plan dictate protection measures designed to protect, maintain, and restore aquatic and riparian functions. These strategies are employed during harvest activities and include but are not limited to, leaving trees adjacent to streams to protect stream temperature, provide nutrients, protect stream banks, and eventually provide wood to improve fish habitat.

No specific improvement projects are proposed in the AOP.

### **Land Exchange**

There are no land exchanges planned at this time. In addition, there are no known Department of State Lands (aka Common School Land) parcel sales or desertification of lands managed in the Western Lane District. It should be known though, that DSL land sales are decisions made by DSL, not ODF and said parcel sales may occur within the planning timeline of this AOP. Therefore, a DSL parcel sale may occur within FY 2018 without being identified in this AOP.

At this time the district does not have an approved land exchange plan. District personnel may commence the preparation of a land exchange plan should time allow.

### **Firewood Cutting Program**

Purpose:

The primary objective of the District Firewood Cutting Program is to provide a source of firewood from State Forests to the public for personal use and secondarily to reduce fuel hazards,

protect crop trees, improve visibility along roads, and provide a recreational opportunity. The District's Firewood Cutting Program is tied to the completion of timber sales. Timber sale contracts require any non-merchantable wood or cull material that has been yarded to the landing and is suitable for firewood to be placed in a pile. Purchasers of BOF lands timber sales are using more of the branches and materials left after trees are harvested, so opportunities for personal firewood cutting may be limited. In addition, many of the completed timber sales are located in areas that do not have public access, which also reduces firewood availability.

State Forests are managed for multiple benefits; snags, downed wood and stumps are important habitat components under our Forest Management Plan. Any individual gathering firewood on State Forests land should follow the permit instructions, consult the permit maps and personnel at their local ODF office to ensure they remain on State Forests land. Property lines are frequently unmarked and any permission obtained from ODF to gather firewood is only valid on State Forests land. Harvesting firewood without the landowner's permission is trespass.

Firewood is a high-risk vector for wood-boring insects, such as emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle, two species responsible for widespread defoliation of forests in Midwest and Eastern states. The Oregon Invasive Weed Council and ODF encourage people to obtain their firewood in a place as close as possible to the place where it will be burned. Recreationists have a role in protecting the forests by not moving firewood great distances.

The district rules for firewood cutting and the process for obtaining firewood cutting permits is described below.

When:

The public will be notified of firewood cutting permits by posting notices at the district office, in the field and/or at nearby public areas such as bulletin boards at local markets. Notices may also be posted on the ODF's external website (<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Working/Pages/Firewood.aspx>). Permits will only be issued during the months outside the fire season. Fire season is generally from July 1st through October 15th. The availability and duration of each permit will be determined by the State Forest Unit Manager on a case by case basis. Items considered may include, but are not limited to: access, quantity of firewood, management goals, resource and infrastructure protection, and workload management.

Who:

A limited number of personal firewood cutting permits will be issued to the public, on a first come-first served basis. The permit is valid for two cords and shall not be transferred to another party and shall not be used to sell firewood to another party. Oregon Department of Forestry does not guarantee the quality or availability of wood when issuing firewood cutting permits. Exceptions to the two cord limit may be made for non-profit organizations, with prior district authorization.

Where:

Designated firewood cutting areas will be marked on the permit map, which excludes active and sold timber sales, recreation sites, and planned operations. There is no guarantee that units or travel routes will be posted in the field.

How:

Enforcement of firewood cutting permits will be accomplished by law enforcement officers and following the Firewood Cutting Guidance described in 12.2.G1.2.2. Additional firewood cutting permit requirements and guidelines may be provided with the permit.

### **Non-Timber Forest Products**

Western Lane does not currently issue permits for non-timber forest products due to the small parcel size and scattered ownership pattern.

## Planning

Below are the significant district-level planning projects currently scheduled for FY 2018.

### **Stand Level Inventory and Other Vegetation Inventories**

Stand level inventory (SLI) efforts may take place on the district during the 2018 fiscal year. These efforts may be accomplished using the combined efforts of contracts administered by Salem staff and in-house work conducted by district personnel.

### **Fish and Wildlife Surveys**

Western Lane District has a very active spotted owl and marbled murrelet survey program. All survey results are reviewed by an ODFW representative.

We typically survey 10 to 20 current and potential sale areas each year for spotted owls under ODF contracts or in cooperation with federal agencies. In addition, Northern Spotted Owl activity centers that affect State land are monitored.

Marbled murrelet surveys are conducted annually on about 5 potential sale areas.

The District will conduct physical surveys for unknown streams. Forest Practices data and personal knowledge are also used for sale planning.

Table 3. Summary of Surveys for Northern Spotted Owls

<b>Operation*</b>	<b>Survey Years<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>BA<sup>2</sup> Required</b>	<b>Special Considerations</b>
East Chicken	15-17	No	In safe harbor agreement area
Happy Hen	15-17	No	In safe harbor agreement area
Wildcat	15-17	Yes	In safe harbor agreement area
Bear Post	15-16	No	
By Gally	15-17	No	
Cram Cleanup	15-17	No	
GM Thin	15-17	No	
Haynes Way	15-17	No	In safe harbor agreement area
Iron Mountain	15-17	No	In safe harbor agreement area

Milk Creek	15-17	No	
Tilden Switchback	15-17	No	In safe harbor agreement area
Tilden Two	15-17	No	In safe harbor agreement area

\* Indicates operations surveyed using the Density Survey Protocols

<sup>1</sup>Years that surveys have been completed or are planned.

<sup>2</sup>A Biologic Assessment is required for this operation due to the presence of NSO or MM in the vicinity of the operation.

Table 2. Summary of Surveys for Marbled Murrelets

Operation	Survey Years <sup>1</sup>	BA <sup>2</sup> Required	Special Considerations
East Chicken	15 & 16	No	
Happy Hen	N/A	No	No surveys required
Wildcat	16 & 17	No	
Bear Post	11 & 12	No	
By Gally	N/A	No	No surveys required
Cram Cleanup	15 & 16	No	
GM Thin	13 & 14	No	
Haynes Way	15 & 16	No	
Iron Mountain	16 & 17	No	
Milk Creek	N/A	No	No surveys required
Tilden Switchback	16 & 17	No	
Tilden Two	N/A	No	No surveys required

<sup>1</sup> Years that surveys have been completed or are planned.

<sup>2</sup> A Biologic Assessment is required for this operation due to the presence of NSO or MM in the vicinity of the operation

## Research and Monitoring

No Research or Monitoring is planned to be conducted by the district for the 2018 AOP.

## Other Planning Operations

Preparing the 2019 Annual Operations Plan. Preparation efforts include reconnoitering operations, developing pre-operation reports, and preparing T&E surveys.

The district may commence the preparation of a land exchange plan. The development of a land exchange plan will be determined by the availability of staff.

## Merging with the Coos District

The Coos District has been an independent, fully functioning district of the Oregon Department of Forestry since 1955, when ODF began active management of the Elliott State Forest. After June 30, 2017, ODF will no longer have any management oversight or responsibility of the approximately 82,500 Common School Land acres within the Elliott. These lands will have management oversight by the Department of State Lands or contractor while a new owner for the lands is finalized. Beginning on July 1, 2017, the Coos District will become the Coos Unit of the Western Lane District, headquartered in Veneta, Oregon. Beginning on this date the State Forests Unit on the Western Lane district will take over planning and on the ground activities for the remaining 11,303 acres of ODF managed land located in the new Coos Unit. No State Forest staff will be on site in Coos Bay to deal with day to day forest management activities but adequate staff will be stationed in Veneta to effectively manage these lands.

## Public Information and Education

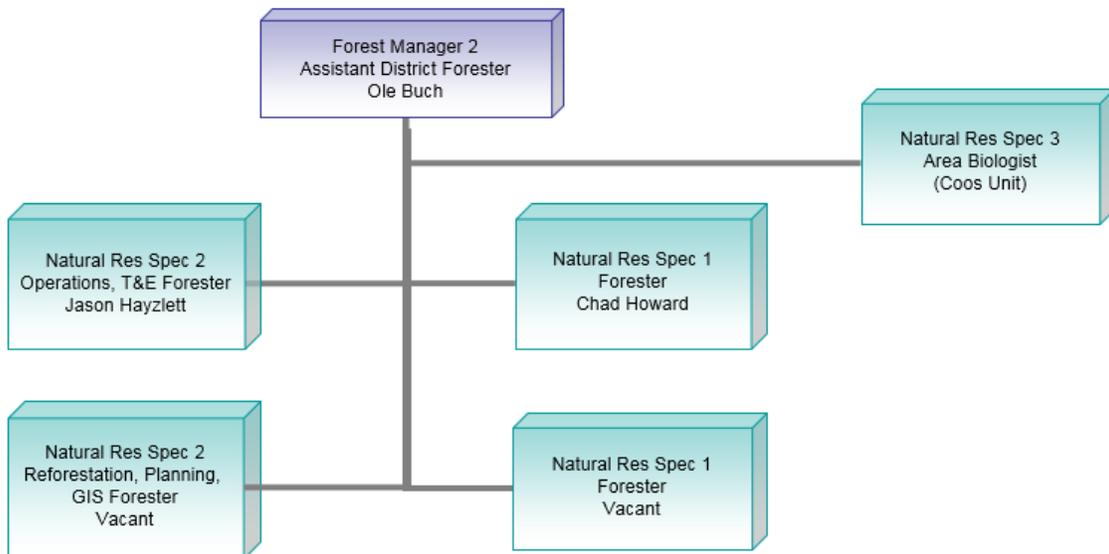
Public information and involvement will include public review and comments on the 2018 AOP. In addition, informal public review and comment on all district State Forests management activities on an ongoing basis is expected and welcomed.

## Administration

Starting on July 1, 2017 there will be six full time foresters (Assistant District Forester, one Natural Resource Specialist 3, two Natural Resources Specialist 2's, and two Natural Resource Specialist 1's) in the Western Lane District State Forests Unit. The NRS 3 is based out of Coos Bay and provides biological expertise to the Southern Oregon Area. The Unit Manager, two NRS2's, and two NRS1's perform all the tasks normally handled by engineering, marketing, reforestation/young stand management, GIS, T&E, and planning specialists in the larger districts.

The State Forests budget partially funds the District Forester, Office Manager and Receptionist.

## District Organization



## APPENDIXES

### A. Summary Tables

- a. Harvest Operations – Financial Summary
- b. Harvest Operations – Forest Resource Summary
- c. Forest Road Management Summary
- d. Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary
- e. Recreation Management Summary

### B. Map Section

- a. Harvest Operations Vicinity Map

### C. Consultations with Other State Agencies

This appendix summarizes the results of consultations with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and other agencies, as appropriate. This appendix contains any written comments that we received from state agencies.

### D. Public Involvement

This appendix describes the results of the public involvement process of this AOP and will be added prior to its approval.

### E. Pre-Operations Reports

Pre-Operations Reports are available from the district upon request.





<sup>5</sup> This table lists harvest operations (units or log haul routes) that are adjacent to streams that are known to contain T&E fish. The Pre-Operation Report identifies whether T&E fish are present in the basin.

### ALTERNATE HARVEST OPERATIONS - FOREST RESOURCE SUMMARY

This table lists Forest Resources and other issues addressed within Pre-Operations Report due to their presence within or near harvest operations

Alternate Harvest Operations	Unit (Optional)	Forest Health Issues <sup>1</sup>	Invasive Species	LYR/OFS Structures <sup>2</sup>	Landcape Design LYR/OFS <sup>3</sup>	Install/Replace Culverts on Fish Bearing / Perennial Streams	Harvesting within 100' of Fish Bearing Stream	Domestic Water Source	Potential Stream Habitat Improvement <sup>4</sup>	Within Aquatic Anchor	Within Terrestrial Anchor	Operating within a NSO Provincial Circle	Operating within a MMMA (BA Required)	Murrelet Timber Sale Screening Process Required (MM Policy 2.27)	T&E Fish Adjacent to Harvest Unit / Haul Route <sup>5</sup>	T&E Plants	Geotechnical Issues Needing Field Review	Recreation Sites	Cultural Resources	Scenic Resources	Other Resources or Issues	
Bear Post	1&2		x														x				x	
By Gally	1		x											x	x	x					x	
Cram Cleanup	1		x																			
GM Thin	1		x																			
Happy Hen	1		x												x							
Haynes Way	1,2,&3		x						x						x		x					
Iron Mountain	1		x																			
Milk Creek	1		x			x																
Tilden Switchback	1		x			x																
Tilden Two	1		x																			

<sup>1</sup> A 'x' (in any column) indicates yes the resource or other issue occurs within or near the harvest operation and is addressed by the Pre-Operations Report

<sup>2</sup> A 'x' indicates the harvest operation contains stands that are currently in a Layered or Older Forest Stand Structure

<sup>3</sup> A 'x' indicate that the operation contains areas that have been designated for the development of complex forest stands (LYR/OFS)

<sup>4</sup> The final decision on these projects will occur during sale preparation and inconultation with ODFW.

<sup>5</sup> This table lists harvest operations (units or log haul routes) that are adjacent to streams that are known to contain T&E fish. The Pre-Operation Report identifies whether T&E fish are present in the basin.



## REFORESTATION AND YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District: Western Lane

Fiscal Year: 2018

Date: 03/07/2016

Projects Conducted by ODF Staff or Contractors	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District	
	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	BOF Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	CSL Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost
Seedling / Nursery Costs	499	\$127.00	\$63,373.00			\$0.00	499	\$63,373.00
Initial Planting	342	\$136.00	\$46,512.00			\$0.00	342	\$46,512.00
Interplanting	157	\$85.00	\$13,345.00			\$0.00	157	\$13,345.00
Underplanting	0		\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection - Barriers	0		\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection - Direct Control	0		\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep - Chemical - Aerial	0		\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep - Chemical - Hand	342	\$110.00	\$37,620.00			\$0.00	342	\$37,620.00
Site Prep - Broadcast Burning	0		\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep - Piling Burning	0		\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep - Mechanical	0		\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release - Chemical - Aerial	0		\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release - Chemical - Hand	138	\$140.00	\$19,320.00			\$0.00	138	\$19,320.00
Release - Mechanical - Hand	0		\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Precommercial Thinning	0		\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Pruning	0		\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Invasive Species	20	\$28.00	\$560.00			\$0.00	20	\$560.00
Road Side Spraying	40	\$28.00	\$1,120.00			\$0.00	40	\$1,120.00
Stocking Surveys	200	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	200	\$0.00
Other			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$181,850.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>\$181,850.00</b>

\* Work to be completed by ODF staff; cost are for materials only

Projects Conducted by Inmates	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District	
	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	BOF Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	CSL Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost
Initial Planting			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Interplanting			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Underplanting			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection - Barriers			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection - Direct Control			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep. - Chemical Aerial			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep - Chemical - Hand			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep - Broadcast Burning			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep - Piling Burning			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep - Mechanical			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release - Chemical - Hand			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release - Mechanical - Hand			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Precommercial Thinning			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Pruning			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Invasive Species			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Other			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

Grant Funded Activities	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District	
	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00

**RECREATION SITE MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

District: Western Lane

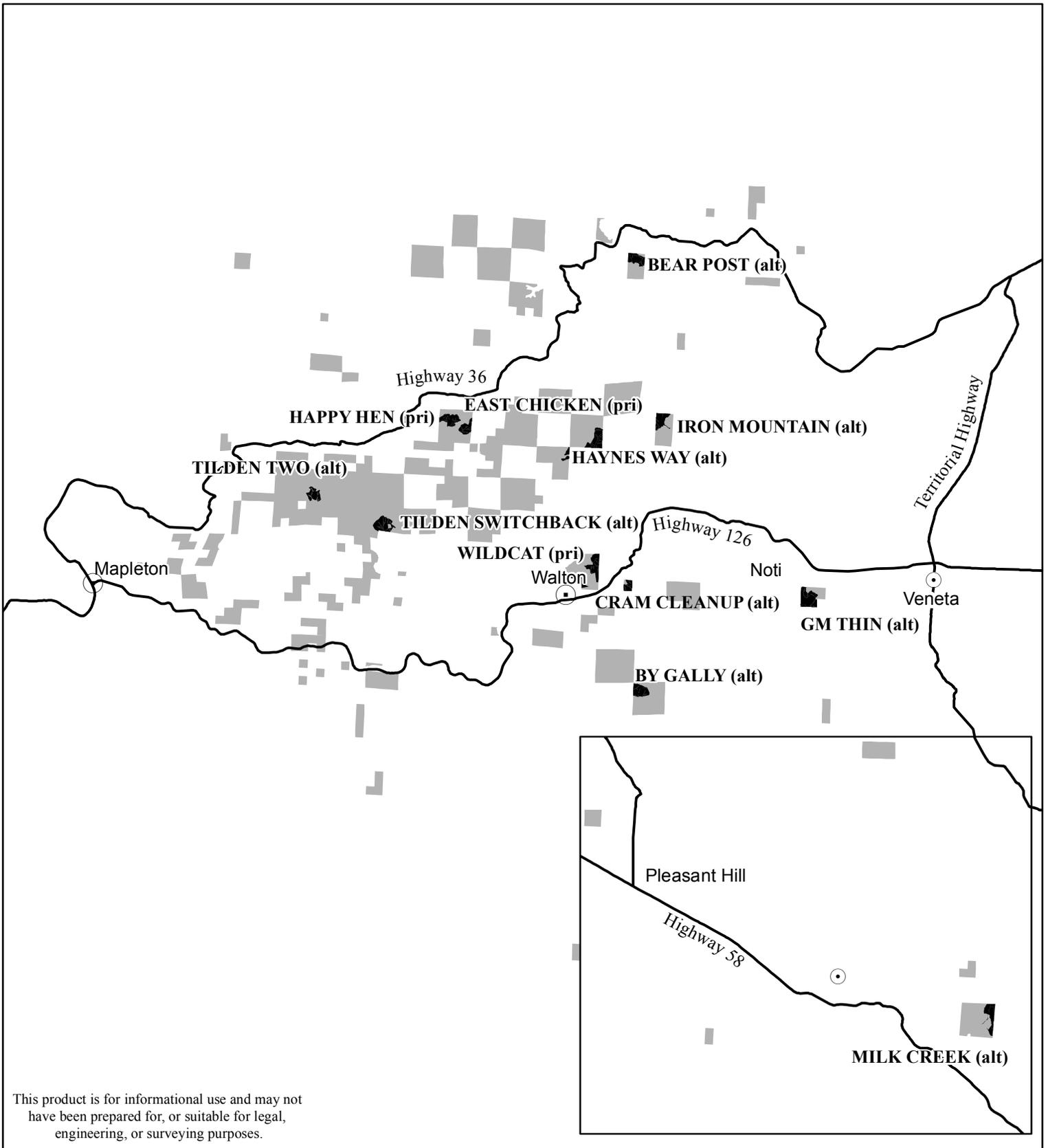
Fiscal Year: 2018

Date : 12/13/2016

Project	Construction Cost (Funding)		Improvement Cost (Funding)		Operations/Maint. (Funding)		Total Costs	Comments
	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)		
<b>Campgrounds</b>								
None							\$0	
							\$0	
							\$0	
<b>Designated Dispersed Campsites</b>								
None							\$0	
							\$0	
							\$0	
<b>Day Use Areas</b>								
None							\$0	
							\$0	
							\$0	
<b>Trailheads</b>								
<u>None</u>							\$0	
							\$0	
							\$0	
<b>Interpretive Sites</b>								
<u>None</u>							\$0	
							\$0	
							\$0	
<b>Other Operations</b>								
							\$0	
							\$0	
							\$0	
							District Total	\$0
							Other Total	\$0
							<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>







This product is for informational use and may not have been prepared for, or suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.

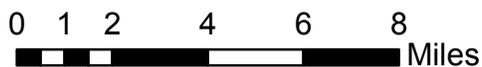
### Appendix B VICINITY MAP

FY 2018 AOP  
WESTERN LANE DISTRICT

#### Legend

-  Towns
-  Highways
-  2018 Sales
-  ODF Ownership

Approximate Scale  
1 inch = 4 miles



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"



# Appendix C

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## **Consultations with Other State Agencies**

This appendix summarizes the results of consultations with the Oregon Department Of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

- The FY2018 AOP was sent to the ODFW for review. In addition, ODFW and ODF representatives collaborate on all T&E survey results that could affect timber sales identified in this AOP. ODF will discuss and resolve any comments received from ODFW prior to the auction of timber sales identified in this AOP.
- Archaeologists from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) have reviewed the proposed timber harvests and road construction projects to review potential impacts to cultural resources. A potential historic railroad grade was identified near one of the proposed timber sales in this AOP. Trained field staff will explore the project area vicinity for railroad remains prior to sale layout. Appropriate cultural resource protection will occur if historic railroad remains are found within the timber sale area.
- The FY2018 AOP was sent to the Coos, Grande Ronde, Lower Umpqua, Siletz, and Siuslaw Tribes for review. When/if comments are received the District will discuss and resolve any concerns raised by the Tribes regarding these operations prior to the auction of these operations.

# Appendix D

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## **Public Involvement**

The Oregon Department of Forestry provided a formal 45 day public comment period for the 2018 Annual Operations Plans from April 25 to June 8, 2018.

The purpose of the Public Comment Period was to provide an opportunity for the public to review the AOP's, ask questions, make recommendations, and offer comments. As a public agency, ODF strives to operate in the best interests of Oregonians. We provide opportunities for public participation to assist us in securing the greatest permanent value from state forests for all Oregonians.

Past experience has shown that public comments have the potential to improve plans, so the objective was not only to inform the public, but to receive feedback that would help to clarify the AOP's, improve their consistency with the long range FMPs and IPs, and to become aware of any new information that could affect a planned operation or improve its efficiency or effectiveness.

At the end of the public comment period, the Western Lane District received one comment specific to the 2018 AOP relating to sustainability, fish and wildlife, watershed health, flora diversity, and recreation. These issues were reviewed and determined to be in alignment with the district's Forest Management Plan and Implementation Plan.

Public comments and the responses are available upon request.

# Appendix E

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## **Pre-Operations Reports**

Pre-Operations Reports are available from the district upon request.