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Department of Forestry

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To: Dan Thorpe, District Forester, Southwest Oregon District

From: Chris Rudd, Management Unit Forester

CC: Dave Lorenz, Southern Oregon Area Director, Liz Dent, Chief, State Forests Program Rob Nall, Operations Coordinator, State Forests Program

Date: May 6, 2014

Re: Final Annual Operations Plan for 2015

The 2013 State Forests Annual Operations Plan for the Southwest Oregon District is attached for your approval. This plan is consistent with the Southwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan, the current District Implementation Plan, and the 2015 Annual Operations Planning Standards and Guidance memorandum.

The two primary sales this year are 154 acres total with 1.6MMBF valued at \$435,000. These two sales on Buck Ridge and Tunnel have a significant component of hardwoods (0.5 MMBF) which will appeal to the small logger and might be a tough sell directly to the mills. The alternate sale is 169 acres or 0.67 MMBF at an approximate value of \$182,000. This sale is in the works for 2016 or could be carried a couple years to give Windy Creek some more recovery time from recent harvest activities.

This annual operations plan covers proposed forest management activities for fiscal year 2015. This plan was reviewed by technical specialists from within the department and biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and USFWS. Their comments were received verbally and in writing (written comments are on file at the district office. The draft annual operations plan also underwent a 45-day public comment period. No district specific public comments were received.

Approval of this plan does not constitute final approval of individual project details. Individual timber sales are subject to additional review processes at the district and program staff level before approval for auction. The operations described in this plan may be modified during the final preparation and/or implementation. Modifications to these operations will conform to the process included in the draft Annual Operations Planning Directive.

The official copy of this Annual Operations Plan will be on file at the district office. Additional copies are available at the State Forests Program office in Salem, and is also available on the ODF web site at:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Pages/state_forests/Annual_Operations_Plans.aspx

APPROVED:

5/7/2014

Dan Thorpe, District Forester

Date

SOUTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT 2015 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

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SOUTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT

2015 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Operations Plan (AOP) describes activities and projects designed to achieve the goals and objectives of the Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan (FMP) – April 2010, and the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan (IP) – March 2003 (modified in 2007). In addition, this plan is designed to comply with State Forest Policies governing Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Plants and Animals. The Southwest Oregon District manages approximately 16,760 acres of State Forest land in Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, and Curry counties. For more information regarding the strategies used to manage State Forests in Southwest Oregon, refer to the Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan – April 2010. For more information on the resources and characteristics specific to the Southwest Oregon District, refer to the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan – March 2003.

The Southwest Oregon District 2015 Annual Operations Plan is organized to include the following:

- 1. Annual Operations Plan Summary document which includes sections on timber harvest operations, forest roads, young stand management operations, and recreation.
- 2. Annual Operations Plan Summary tables
- 3. Pre-Operation Reports with unit maps (available upon request)
- 4. Preliminary Biological Assessments of the planned harvest operations (available upon request)
- 5. Public Involvement Summary (this section will be added prior to the approval of the AOP)
- 6. Consultation with Other Agencies (posted after comments are received).

Table 1 below documents the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan – March 2003 activities and the range of acreages that could be reasonably anticipated in a given year, as well as the acres proposed through this AOP. Further refinement of the acreage will occur during the field preparation of the planned commercial forest operation.

Silvicultural Activity	IP Annua	IP Annual Objective									
	Low	High	Objective								
Partial Cut Harvest	150	270	154								
Regeneration Harvest	0	50	40								
Reforestation (Initial Planting)	0	270	100								
Pre-commercial Thinning	0	500	0								
Fertilization	0	250	0								
Pruning	0	50	0								

Table 1. Annual Operations Plan objectives compared to annual objectives identified in the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan. All values are in net acres.

The management activities planned for FY 2015 are based on the range of objectives established in the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan (Table 1), as well as the assumption that budget allotments will be similar to fiscal 2014. The Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan, which was approved in 2003 and was intended to be in effect until June 30, 2011, will remain in effect until revisions to the plan are completed and approved by the State Forester. The extension of the 2003 Implementation Plan is documented in a February 15, 2011 memorandum from the State Forester.

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.

Updates to the Forest Land Management Classification will be accomplished this year. The FLMCS is a method of describing the management emphasis of an area of state forestland. The FLMCS describes areas of Special, Focused, or General Stewardship. The maps generated from this project will help forest managers make better decisions on the extent of management activities that can occur in a given area.

INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Timber Harvest Operations

Overview of Timber Harvest Operations

<u>Harvest Levels</u>: In accordance with the guidance on the 2015 harvest levels, the district has included 194 acres of timber harvest (154 net acres partial cut and 40 acres clear-cut) in this AOP (Table A-1). This harvest level is consistent with the district's intensive review of the outputs from the Department's Harvest and Habitat Model Project. The district is implementing the mix of clearcut and thinning acres identified in its review of the model outputs and addressed in the IP modification (April 2007).

For 2015 we are submitting two main sales and one alternate sale. The Buck Ridge and Tunnel West sales will cover 211 gross acres (194 net) and raise approximately \$417,080. The harvest will be about 1.662 MMBF conifer and 0.5 MMBF hardwood. The 2015 harvest would cover approximately 1% of the State Forest land in the Southwest Oregon District.

All units were selected on the basis of stand management needs in light of the current stand structures and the desired future condition objectives. In all of the harvest units, stand complexity will progress toward the desired future condition through the retention of all "legacy" forest structure components (such as snags, down wood, old-growth trees etc.), the retention of the majority of the overstory, the utilization of a variety of residual densities and small open patches, site preparation, and underplanting of a variety of forest tree species. In addition, the structural components of snags and downed wood will be created where deficiencies exist.

The revenue projections on these sales use a stumpage value of \$340 based on past stumpage prices and professional judgment. This value is rising compared to historical standards and may fluctuate based on market conditions. The sale volume is also an estimate based on the available inventory data and the final sale layout design.

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. Information on operations that occur within the provincial circle of a northern spotted owl have 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 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife 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 C.

Some additional small operations such as salvage logging and commercial firewood will produce timber volume during the 2015 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. These sales will be less than \$100,000 in value and comply with all policies and plans.

Structural Habitat Components

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

<u>Green Tree Retention</u>. The green tree retention target for regeneration harvest units is five trees per acre. Green tree arrangements in SWO take the form of scattered individual trees, clumps of trees, and trees concentrated in and adjacent to riparian management areas. Scattered trees provide an immediate seed source and added structure within the unit. Trees that naturally blow over provide down wood in uplands or into streams. On south slopes in SWO scattered leave trees provide some shelter for seedlings over long hot summers.

<u>Snags-</u> 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. Across the landscape, snags may be overabundant in some areas and deficient in others. In SWO, the presence of bark beetles causes additional snags in the Windy Creek area, grand fir tend to die in dry years when drought stress and beetle infestations combine. These snags are softer than Incense Cedar and Douglas-fir, and do not stand as long after they are dead. In the south in Josephine and Jackson County, Ponderosa Pine are susceptible to drought and beetles as well, though we do not see the widscale die off as in eastern Oregon. In Curry County, there are an abundance of snags across the landscape as a result of the Biscuit Fire.

<u>Down Wood-</u> The FMP strategy for Down Woody Debris is to retain and supplement the supply of down wood during regeneration harvest and to manage for old growth forests in the future that contain an average of 250 to 300 cubic feet of hard conifer logs (class 1 & 2) across the landscape or 1,200 – 1,800 cubic feet total in all decay classes.

Stand Level Inventory data indicates that there is approximately 100 cubic feet of Class 1 & 2 DWD per acre over the district and 1,689 cubic feet in all size classes. These numbers do not include additions from recent fires, wind events or all of the snags & DWD created with recent timber sale contracts.

Landscape Design

The landscape design is a long term vision of the Desired Future Condition (DFC) for an array of stand structures across the district which will be achieved through a variety of silvicultural prescriptions across diverse stand types.

The District's vision for future development of complex and general stands on the landscape is described and mapped in the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan range of complex structure is 20-50%. The Landscape Design is composed of Complex Structure stands occupying 48 percent of the district managed for the Desired Future Condition (DFC) either Layered (LYR) or Older Forest Structure (OFS). The "Harvest Operations – Stand Structure Summary" table in Appendix B provides an overview of the current condition of the Primary Harvest Operations and their anticipated stand structure five to ten years after harvesting has been completed. In addition, this table provides a summary of the Desired Future Condition of the Primary Harvest Operations of the Primary Harvest Operations of the Primary Harvest Operations of the Primary Harvest Desired Future Condition of the Primary Harvest Operations of the Primary Harvest Operation of the Primary Harvest Operation of the Primary Harvest Operations of the Primary Harvest Operation of the Primary Harvest Operations of the Primary Harvest Operations.

The district will implement silvicultural prescriptions that are consistent with the mapped DFC, which take into account stand health and the ability of the present stand to achieve the DFC designation. These silvicultural prescriptions will generally be a partial cut designed to increase the structural complexity of the existing stand.

In a few cases, the existing stand does not have the characteristics for developing complex structure either naturally or through management (e.g. red alder stands). These stands may undergo some form of regeneration harvest or very heavy thinning and the establishment of a new stand on that site with the intent of developing complex structure.

The development of the landscape design during implementation planning was generally conducted at the stand level or higher using the best available information at the time, with the recognition that some minor changes will be necessary during operational planning.

Operation/Unit	Modification	Acres Added	Acres Removed
Buck Ridge Thin Area 2	Change from DFC LYR to General		31

Table 2	Minor	Landscap	e Desian	Modifications
	1011101	Lanaooup	C Doolgin	mounoutorio

At Buck Ridge Area 2, Change 31 net/gross acres from DFC layered to General.

Summary of Timber Harvest Operations by Basin

The Rogue and Umpqua basins are the two main watersheds that encompass the SWO district land base. These basins are rather large compared to the total land of the district. The Umpqua Watershed encompasses most of Douglas County and is approximately 2.7 million acres. ODF managed lands in the Umpqua Watershed cover 8,136 acres of the basin. The Rogue Basin covers 3.25 million acres- 8,624 of which is managed by ODF.

Table 5. Barninary of Timber Harvest Operations in each							
Basin	2015 AOP						
Dasin	Partial Cut	Clearcut					
Rogue	0	0					
Umpqua	154	40					

Table 3. Summary of Timber Harvest Operations in each basin. All values are in net acres.

Rogue Basin

There are no sales planned in the Rogue Watershed in 2015.

Umpqua Basin

Two of the primary timber sales are in the Umpqua Basin. These sales would change 181 acres of Closed Single Canopy to 35 acres of regen and 146 acres of understory development. Thirty acres of UDS would go to regen (5 acres) and 25 acres of UDS would stay the same. At this scale, the sales will have little impact on the Umpqua watershed.

<u>Buck Ridge-</u> The western portion of the sale is primarily madrone hardwoods. This part of the sale is about 54 years old. In the western portion, 62 acres will go from CSC to 28 acres regen and 34 acres UDS. The eastern portion is 74 years old in the overstory and will remain is in UDS. This UDS will remain as such over 25 acres and 5 acres will go to regen.

<u>Tunnel West-</u> is a thinning sale of 110 acres and clearcut of 9 acres. The forest is 58-63 years old. Some of the stand exhibits qualities of layering with residual large trees and

hardwoods. The prescription is for 119 acres of CSC to go to 9 acres regen and 110 acres of UDS.

<u>Rockpit 2015-</u> The Rockpit 2015 sale is an alternate sale that may be used in part to backfill acres that may be lost to spotted owls. Rockpit is 48-53 year-old timber in the "General" DFC. The prescription for this area encompassing 169 net acres is for a partial cut. Note Area III is DFC Layered.

Forest Roads Management

Overview

Southwest Oregon District will continue the development and maintenance of a low impact transportation system for the management of SWO State Forests. The typical transportation pattern for access to State Forest land is one primary haul route crossing a variety of landowners to one or more access spurs once within State Forest property. The primary roads needed to access State Forest property will be maintained at a level consistent with the access agreement developed by the District and the appropriate landowner.

Access spurs within State Forest properties are developed to maintain the appropriate management presence that is anticipated for a given tract. For tracts requiring an extended management presence, surface rock and drainage structures will be incorporated into the road design. For tracts requiring limited management presence, naturally surfaced, seasonal roads with temporary drainage structures will be utilized. Upon completion of the operation, all access spurs will be assessed for closure.

The level of new road construction and improvement is kept to a minimum in harvest planning to reduce costs where possible. Road building costs will be kept to a minimum, but not at the expense of best management practices aimed at controlling erosion.

Roads will be improved or constructed to meet the minimum design standards necessary to prevent impact to streams. Various prescriptions for road renovation will be required including but not limited to: resurfacing with rock, replacing undersized culverts, adding new culverts as needed for proper drainage, grading and ditching, and roadside brushing. Also, any potential hazards such as slides, sidecast material, and other drainage issues will be identified and corrected.

The primary objective is to minimize the effect forest roads have on water quality and slope stability and at the same time provide a safe and efficient transportation system. Some of the naturally surfaced roads will have the drainage reestablished, be grass seeded, and blocked upon completion of the operation to minimize erosion and sedimentation. In addition, Level III planning, in accordance with the State Forests Forest Roads Manual, is conducted for each operation. See the attached Pre-Operations Reports for more detailed information concerning road activities within each operation area.

During active timber harvest, the purchaser of the sale will maintain these roads. Upon completion of the sale, road maintenance responsibility on private and Federal land will be returned to the landowner.

Prior to any major forest activity such as logging, an inventory of noxious weeds will be conducted along the travel route. ODF will work with the BLM and other neighboring landowners to remove and control noxious weeds before they are spread by forest use activities.

See Table A-3 in the Appendix for summary information concerning road activities.

Road Construction

Road construction will primarily focus on the development of low use spurs necessary for operation access. Most of these spurs will remain naturally surfaced during the operation and generally have natural drainage reestablished, be grass seeded, and blocked upon completion of the operation to minimize erosion and sedimentation. For this sale plan, approximately 1 mile of road will be constructed at a cost of \$14,000 (Table A-4).

Road Improvement

Road improvement will focus on low use spurs on Department of Forestry managed lands. These roads may be open or closed to vehicular travel but will need to be improved for commercial activity. Upon completion of the operation, drainage will be reestablished, and natural surfaced roads will be grass seeded, and blocked to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Approximately 2 miles of roads will be improved in the 2015 sale plan at a cost of about \$4,000.

Road Access Management

The typical transportation pattern for access to State Forest land is to use one primary road crossing a variety of landowners and several access spurs once within State Forest ownership. This makes road access management difficult. When feasible, road systems currently in place will be utilized for State Forest access. This will require coordination and permission with adjacent landowners. At times, road maintenance on other forest landowner road systems will be required as a condition of use.

Once on State ownership, the road system will be maintained in a condition which best reflects use intensity, duration, and season. Roads receiving medium to high use, frequent use, or all season use, will be surfaced with rock to prevent damage to the road and the aquatic system. These roads will be ditched including cross drainage, and will have sufficient drainage to pass a 50 year flood event. Roads receiving medium to low use, infrequent use, or seasonal use will remain unsurfaced during the operation, outsloped with waterbars, and will generally have natural drainage reestablished, be grass seeded, and blocked upon completion of the operation to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Therefore, medium to high use roads will generally be maintained in an active use condition while medium to low use roads will be maintained in a closed to vacated condition.

Road Maintenance

Road maintenance is typically conducted with harvest operations as a means to conduct the operation as well as to maintain or improve the condition of the transportation system. Road

maintenance conducted apart from harvest operations is accomplished as needed by the district. As a means of reducing road induced sedimentation, the District actively grass seeds areas susceptible to erosion. Grass seed is obtained through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The district typically grades high use rocked roads on a regular rotation, once per year if necessary. Maintenance rock is added as needed.

<u>Water Quality-</u> 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 during in-water work periods when possible. 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.

Land Surveying

The Southwest Oregon District uses the Salem Roads Engineer for surveying needs when necessary. After the fires of 2013, it was necessary to survey the Perkins ownership. This work will continue into the 2015 fiscal if necessary. Both Tunnel West and Buck Ridge have shared borders with BLM and Private landowners. It may be necessary to touch-up blazed lines or reestablish property line boundaries. Recon work has been done to assess the extent of property line blazing that remains at these two parcels. This has been partially completed. At Buck Ridge, there are faint blazes on the north side. The east side is blazed well. Touch up work will be needed at Buck Ridge on the north line. Tunnel thin appears to have little if any blazing on the west and south lines. The north line is lightly blazed. Survey work at some level will need to be done at Tunnel.

Young Stand Management

Young Stand Management is related to activities that develop young stands into healthy vigourous growing trees; site preparation, reforestation, tree protection, and pre-commercial thinning. Under the Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan (FMP) and the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan, the objectives for the SWO District are to maintain the high level of biodiversity exhibited throughout the landscape as well as provide for economic and social sustainability in the future. This will be accomplished while functioning at the appropriate budget matrix level using the management activities below. See table A-5 in the appendix for the detailed reforestation plan.

Site Preparation

Site preparation is used to create planting space and reduce competing vegetation. In addition, site preparation is an excellent means to reduce the fuel loading following a commercial operation. Without slash management methods, one can expect to see higher rates of mortality, a higher risk of catastrophic loss from fire, and losses in growth, vigor, and overall health due to competition from surrounding vegetation. The goal of site preparation is to create excellent micro-sites that are free of competing vegetation which minimizes seedling mortality and creates an area relatively safe from loss due to wildland fire. Mechanical site preparation combined with slash piling, slash burning and/or slash removal creates planting

spaces. Slash removal may come in the form of yarding unmerchantable tree tops to landing areas combined with public or commercial wood cutting permits.

One of the most cost effective methods of site preparation involves hack and squirt of hardwoods prior to clearcutting. This prevents the stumps from sprouting after the harvest. In 2015 the district will look to do this in the Buck Ridge and Tunnel West regeneration units. The district also looks for opportunities to broadcast burn units where possible. In recent years it is getting difficult to find a weather window to do the burning. There are candidates for burning in the sale plan and we will look for opportunities to burn. The district does not typically do a pre-emergent spray, rather tries to plant as soon as possible to get ahead of the brush.

Planting

Planting helps to reestablish forest stands, or to create layering and diversity of canopies. Initial planting serves to reforest an area following a clearcut, patch cut, or severe wildfire. Interplanting helps to improve reforestation success when significant mortality results due to wildland fire, animal browse, drought, freeze, or other event usually targeting only a portion of the stand. Underplanting creates multiple forest canopy layers while maintaining or improving overall stand health and diversity. In addition, each of these planting strategies has a target stocking level for the planted species. Initial planting and interplanting attempt to achieve 250 to 300 viable trees per acre by age 15, while underplanting may only need 50 to 100 viable trees per acre. Most stands are initially planted to 435 trees per acre and may need interplanting in following years.

The 2015 planting will depend on the results of our stocking surveys and timber harvest. There are 100 acres planned for initial planting in the 2015 fiscal: Rockpit and Middle Windy. We are planning on 25 acres of interplanting in 2015.

The fires of the summer of 2013 burned approximately 200 acres that will need to be planted over the next couple of fiscal years. Already in the current fiscal year, 70 acres of trees were diverted to the burned area from the Middle Windy sale that has not yet been harvested and the Quines run sale. An additional source of funding is available from the Arbor Day Foundation that we will be able to use to reimburse some of the cost of seedlings but not planting costs. We are sowing extra seedlings (180 acres) for the burn that will be ready in the 2016 fiscal year. We will also be purchasing surplus seedlings where they are available. If we find seedlings on the open market, we may need to plant an additional 0-50 acres.

Vegetation Management

Vegetation management may be accomplished through foliar spray or manual release (chainsaws). Hack and squirt prior to harvesting a unit is a cost effective means of reducing future vegetation and minimizing vegetation management at a later date. Stump treatments may give greater flexibility and safety during harvest where the tree is cut and the cambium layer is treated on the stump immediately. Still another method is to treat suckers when they are about 1 inch thick by basal spray or hack and squirt. All of these methods are aimed at reducing competition from madrone, chinkapin, tanoak and other aggressive hardwoods allowing reestablishment of conifer stands.

Vegetation Management occurs on the district in a number of ways. Some of the techniques used in site preparation would be considered vegetation management for example. This year the vegetation management will come through the site prep mentioned above. About 50 acres will be hack and squirted (see site prep).

We have successfully treated grasses and young shrubs (early foliar) by spraying by hand around seedlings in the past. We expect to use this treatment again in the future on as many as 50 acres per year.

Tree Protection

Deer and elk have proven to browse aggressively on newly planted seedlings in this District. They often damage the terminal bud of young trees stunting tree growth and/or causing seedling mortality by browsing on the new growth. The damage done by deer and elk can have a significant effect on the stocking level. To avoid re-entry and future interplanting, an application of Big Game Repellant (BGR) has shown to be extremely successful in deterring animal browse.

In fiscal year 2015, the district may apply BGR as needed (up to 50 acres).

Pre-commercial Thinning

This treatment is used on stands that have over 250 trees or woody stems per acre. If these stands are not thinned it can significantly increase the number of growing years before the stand is merchantable as well as reducing the stand's health, vigor, and resistance to insects and disease. If the stand is not thinned, density-dependent mortality can take place along with inter-specific competition for limited resources such as water and light. Stands will be thinned to a 14 foot spacing of approximately 222 trees per acre so that the next entry can be a commercial thin at 40-50 years of age. Pine stands may be thinned to a lower density of approximately 170 trees per acre to meet wildlife, structure, and silvicultural objectives.

The district has been able to accomplish pre-commercial thinning through fuels management over the previous several years through grants that have funded 1,500 acres of fuels reduction. The majority of this was understory thinning and a smaller portion was in the younger age classes (PCT). We are planning just 25 acres of PCT in the 2015 fiscal.

Fertilization

Fertilization has mixed results for success. On some poor sites, it may be useful to fertilize. In this upcoming fiscal 2015, there are no plans to fertilize any stands.

Recreation Management

Overview of Recreation Management

There are currently three forest recreation sites located on State Forest land in the Southwest Oregon District. These include Windy Park, London Peak Trailhead, and the Kerby Peak Trail. In addition, a fitness/interpretive arboretum is located at the Grants Pass headquarters and a historic Civilian Conservation Corps building is located at the Central Point

headquarters. Recreational use of the forest is currently low and primarily consists of horseback riding, ATV use, hunting, and sightseeing. The district is open to working with volunteers and user groups on recreation needs.

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

There are two trailheads located at Kerby Peak and London Peak.

Trails

There are no planned improvements of trails or trail heads in 2015.

Management Activities

Local hikers use and or maintain the London Peak trail and the Kerby Peak trail. These trails are partially on BLM lands and are a part of the BLM recreation plan. A primitive trailhead exists at Onion Mountain on Forest Service land where a trail follows the ridge to the Onion Mountain parcel. Additional opportunities for public volunteer work to improve or maintain trails and facilities are encouraged by the State Forest staff on district.

Land Exchange/Land Sales

The district will not be doing any land exchange planning in fiscal year 2015. The DSL is not planning on selling any of the ODF managed lands in 2015.

Other Integrated Forest Management Operations

Noxious Weeds

The district conducts a noxious weed program to control invasive weed species. The program involves identification, eradication and prevention of noxious weeds and their spread. The district inventories and maps noxious weeds, coordinates with the Douglas County Soil and Conservation District and Bureau of Land Management to identify and treat weed species.

Firewood Cutting Program

The Southwest Oregon District will continue to issue personal firewood cutting permits in the coming year for areas where it is available.

The public will be notified of firewood cutting permits through the district's telephone recording and posting at the district office. Permits will be issued for 3 week periods, during the months outside the fire season.

A limited number of personal firewood cutting permits will be issued, on a first come-first served basis, with a limit of 5 permits per individual or household within a 12 month period. A

permit fee of \$20 for 2 cords of firewood is collected for each personal firewood permit. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) does not guarantee the quality or availability of wood when issuing firewood cutting permits.

Designated firewood cutting areas will be marked on the permit map, which excludes active and sold timber sales, recreation sites, and planned operations. Active timber sales will be posted with no firewood cutting signs.

Planning (and Information Systems)

The Oregon Department of Forestry uses comprehensive planning and accompanying information and monitoring systems. A long term forest management plan guides the ten year implementation plan. This document explains one year's activity in the implementation plan. The annual operation plan requires two years of preplanning endangered species surveys, starting with NSO surveys and inventory to determine stand structure and timber volumes. Some of the planning operations and tracking systems are described below.

Stand Level Inventory and Other Vegetation Inventories

The stand level inventory monitoring has restarted with a modest number of stands. Our district will have 11 stands measured in 2015. Approximately 77% of the forest has been inventoried to SLI protocol from 2002-2008. Inventory data on the forest goes back to the 1990's.

Fish and Wildlife Surveys

<u>Northern Spotted Owl</u>: NSO surveys are conducted and a biological assessment is written in order to assess the impacts to owls from harvest operations.

Operation	Species ¹ (NSO/MM)	Survey Years ²	BA ³ Required	Special Considerations
Middle Windy Bear	NSO	2011-13	Yes	
Middle Windy 2014	NSO	2011-13	Yes	
Rockpit 2014	NSO	2011-13	Yes	
Rockpit 2015	NSO	2011-13	Yes	
Buck Ridge	NSO	2011-13	No	2015 Sale
Tunnel West	NSO	2011-13	No	2015 Sale
Trapper's Camp	NSO	2014	Yes	
Red Quartz	NSO	2014	Yes	
Lawson	NSO	2014	Yes	

¹ Surveys are conducted according to accepted protocols when habitat for the specific species is determined to be present. NSO – northern spotted owl, MM – marbled murrelet.

² Years that surveys have been completed or are planned.

³ A Biologic Assessment is required for this operation due to the presence of NSO or MM in the vicinity of the operation.

<u>Marbled Murrelet</u>: Most of the lands managed by ODF on the SWO District are outside the range of murreletts. There are no sales within Marbled Murrelett habitat in 2015, so no surveys are required.

<u>Threatened and Endangered Fish</u>: There are no fish surveys planned for fiscal year 2015. All perennial streams with unknown fish use are treated as fish bearing streams unless they are rendered unsuitable due to the presence of a natural barrier (i.e. high waterfall) or steep gradient (greater than 20%).

Research and Monitoring

Research and monitoring takes many forms on the district. The largest statewide effort is to inventory our stands of timber. SLI data is used to monitor the results of timber sales after harvesting and in conjunction with the more detailed timber cruise prior to harvest. The SLI surveys provide data on snags, down wood, vegetation, and structural attributes that the traditional timber cruise does not measure. The district will continue to monitor the forest through the existing stand level inventory; however, new inventory plots are on hold due to current budget constraints.

A number of other monitoring processes take place in Southwest Oregon:

- Streams are monitored for fish presence and seasonal flows.
- Northern Spotted Owl monitoring surveys are conducted in and around ODF lands.
- An ongoing genetic study is located in the northeast of Windy Creek.
- A snag monitoring project is located at the completed Crossroads Combo timber sale.
- A crown closure study is looking at different levels of crown closure at different thinning densities.
- The southwest also has a pilot NSO project to monitor development of a new NSO policy.

Data for these studies is kept in Salem and the Grants Pass office.

Other Planning Operations

The Southwest Oregon Forest Management Plan was revised in 2010. For this AOP, the Implementation plan harvest levels are being used from the March 2003 plan, modified in 2007. This plan will be redone in the future; the analysis of the outputs from the State Forests harvest model will be conducted to set the harvest objectives for the new IP. In addition, the landscape design and Forest Land Classification maps will be revised and updated.

Public Information and Education

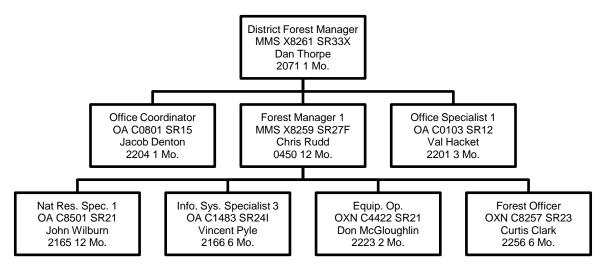
The State Forests Program is committed to the review of AOP and responding to comments from the public. It is the intent of the Southwest Oregon District to continue to serve the public by addressing their questions and concerns regarding the management of the State's natural resources.

The district has started an outdoor education program with Glendale High School and Oregon State University. This program will feature a curriculum designed by the local teachers about forestry and biological sciences. BOF lands are within 5 miles of the school, which is a convenient place for outdoor labs.

ODF has also started an annual tree plant with kids from the Glendale school district to replant trees in the burned areas from the Douglas Complex in the summer of 2013.

Administration

The Southwest Oregon District State Forests Unit is staffed by two employees year-round and three employees that share time and funding with the Protection program. The Forest Manager 1 (FM1) and NRS1 Forester are fully funded by State Forests. The Information Systems Specialist (ISS3) has district-wide responsibilities and is split-funded by the State Forests and the Protection Program. A Forest Officer is split funded through Protection and State Forests Programs; his winter duties for SF include reforestation and timber sale preparation. Under this organizational structure the district is able to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan – March 2003, and the Southwest Oregon District 2010 Annual Operations Plan, while remaining within budgetary means.



APPENDIXES

A. Summary Tables

- A-1 Timber Harvest Operations Financial Summary
- A-2 Primary Harvest Operations- Forest Resource Summary
- A-3 Timber Harvest Operations Forest Structure Summary
- A-4 Forest Roads Summary
- A-5 Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary
- A-6 Recreation Summary
 - a. No recreation projects are planned for FY 2015: table not included

B. Forest Land Management Classification System (FLMCS)

C. Maps

FLMCS and Vicinity Map of Timber Sales.

D. Consultation with Other Agencies

Written Comments from US FWS addressed in comments.

E. Public Involvement

Public Process 2015 AOP.

F. Pre-Operations Reports

Available upon Request

District:	District: SouthwestFiscal Year: 2015Date:														
	Fun	d %		Sale	Net A	cres	Vol	ume (MM	BF)		Value				
Primary Operation	BOF	CSL	County	Quarter	Partial Cut	Clear- cut	Conifer	Hard- woods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net			
2015															
Buck Ridge	100%	0%	Douglas	4	53	31	0.522	0.300	0.822	\$201,480	\$10,000	\$191,480			
Tunnel West	100%	0%	Douglas	2	101	9	0.640	0.200	0.840	\$233,600	\$8,000	\$225,600			
				Total:	154	40	1.162	0.500	1.662	\$435,080	\$18,000	\$417,080			

TIMBER HARVEST OPERATIONS - FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Alternate Operations

(Operation Name) Rockpit (2015)											
Rockpit (2015)	100%	Douglas	4	169	0	0.67	0.0	0.67	\$202,800	\$20,000	\$182,800

PRIMARY HARVEST OPERATIONS - FOREST RESOURCE SUMMARY

District:

Fiscal Year 2015

Date: 03/03/2014

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

Primary Harvest Operations	Unit (Optional)	Forest Health Issues ¹	Invasive Species	structures ²	Landcape Design LYR/OFS ³	Install/Replace Culverts on Fish Bearing / Perennial Streams	Harvesting within 100' of Fish Bearing Stream	Domestic Water Source	Potential Stream Habitat Improvement ⁴	Within Aquatic Anchor	Within Terrestrial Anchor	ing v cial (Within 1/4 mile of MMMA	Harvest Unit / Haul Route 5	T&E Plants	Geotechnical Issues Needing Field Review	creation Sites	Cultural Resources	Scenic Resources	Other Resources or Issues
Buck Ridge	1,11,111				х		х		х			х		х						
Tunnel West	1,11,111				х															

¹ 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

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

³ A 'x' indicate that the operation contains areas that have been designated for the development of complex forest stands

⁴ The final decision on these projects will occur during sale preparation and inconsultation with ODFW.

SWO

⁵ 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

								- 1-												
Alternate Harvest Operations	Unit (Optional)	Forest Health Issues ¹	Invasive Species	LYR/OFS Structures ²	Landcape Design LYR/OFS ³	Install/Replace Culverts on Fish Bearing / Perennial Streams	Harvesting within 100' of Fish Bearing Stream	Domestic Water Source	Potential Stream Habitat Improvement ⁴	Within Aquatic Anchor	Within Terrestrial Anchor	Operating within a NSO Provincial Circle	Within 1/4 mile of MMMA	T&E Fish Adjacent to Harvest Unit / Haul Route ⁵	T&E Plants	Geotechnical Issues Needing Field Review	Recreation Sites	Cultural Resources	Scenic Resources	Other Resources or Issues
Rockpit 2015	I		х									х		х						
Rockpit 2015	Ш		х				х					х		х						
Rockpit 2015	III		х		х		х					Х		х						

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

¹ 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

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

³ A 'x' indicate that the operation contains areas that have been designated for the development of complex forest stands

⁴ The final decision on these projects will occur during sale preparation and inconsultation with ODFW.

⁵ 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.

TIMBER HARVEST OPERATIONS - FOREST STRUCTURE SUMMARY

Distric	t: Southwest		Fiscal Year	2015		Date:	03/03/2014		
Current	Gross Acres Structure	;	Post	Harvest Stru	cturo		Dosiro	d Future Cor	adition
Current	Total	REG	CSC	UDS	LYR	OFS	GEN	LYR	OFS
REG									
CSC	181	35		146			38	143	
UDS	30	5		25			30		
LYR									
OFS									
Total	211	40	0	171	0	0	68	143	0

FOREST ROADS SUMMARY

District:			Fiscal Year:	2015		Date:	03/03/2014		
Operation	Construction		Improvement		Other	Total Project	Gross Value	Total Cost as a percent of Gross	Comments
operation	Miles	Cost	Miles	Cost	Projects	Costs	of Operation	Value	Comments
Buck Ridge	0.29	\$8,000	1	\$2,000		\$10,000	\$201,480	5.0%	
Tunnel West	0.71	\$6,000	1	\$2,000		\$8,000	\$233,600	3.4%	

Total	1.0	\$14,000	2.0	\$4,000	\$0	\$18,000	\$435,080	4.1%

Alternate Operations

Rockpit		Rockpit	\$ 20,000	\$20,000	\$202,800	9.9%	
				\$0	1	0.0%	
				\$0	1	0.0%	

Road Projects Not Funded by Harvest Operations

Operation	Construction		Improvement		Other	Total	Funding	Comments
Operation	Miles Cost		Miles	Cost	Projects	Project	runung	Comments
						\$0		
						\$0		
						\$0		
						\$0		
						\$0		
						\$0		

REFORESTATION AND YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District:	Southwest		Fiscal Year:	2015		Date:	03/03/2014	
ODF Funded Activities	E	Board of Fores	try	Commo	Common School Forest Lands			strict
	Acres	Average		Acres	Average			
Management Activity	Planned	Cost*/Acre	BOF Cost	Planned	Cost*/Acre	CSL Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost
Initial Planting (Rock, MidWin, Fires)	100	260	\$26,000.00			\$0.00	100	\$26,000.00
Interplanting	25	150	\$3,750.00			\$0.00	25	\$3,750.00
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**	50	90	\$4,500.00			\$0.00	50	\$4,500.00
Site Prep -Slash Burning			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep -Mechanical			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Fertilization			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Noxious weeds	10	100	\$1,000.00			\$0.00	10	\$1,000.00
Release-Chemical- Aerial			\$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 (SWoods)	25	100	\$2,500.00			\$0.00	25	\$2,500.00
Sowing (Perkins burned units)	180	2.29	\$412.20			\$0.00	180	\$412.20
Other-			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Totals	390		\$38,162.20	0		\$0.00	390	\$38,162.20

*Planting costs include all costs including seedlings **H/S Buck Ridge, Tunnel Thin

Grant Funded Activities	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			Dis		
	Acres	Average		Acres	Average				Funding
Management Activity	Planned	Cost*/Acre	Cost	Planned	Cost*/Acre	Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost	-
Arbor Day Grant	65	\$184.62	\$12,000.00			\$0.00	65	\$12,000.00	
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00	
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00	
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00	

District:			F	iscal Year:	201#			Date:			
Operation	Unit of Measure	Current	Construction Projects	Construc (Fund ODF		Improvement Projects		ment Cost nding) Other	Total Cost	Comments	
Facilities											
Campsites	Sites								\$0		
Day Use Areas									\$0		
Trailheads									\$0		
Interpretive Sites									\$0		
(Other)	Sites								\$0		
Trails											
Non-Motorized	Miles								\$0		
Motorized	Miles								\$0		

RECREATION MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Total: \$0

Forest Land Management Classification System (FLMCS) Major Change Notification

The FLMCS is a method of describing the management emphasis of parcels of state forest land. The management emphasis identifies the extent to which a parcel of land can be managed for a variety of forest resources. It also identifies when a particular forest resource may need a more focused approach in its management, or possibly an exclusive priority in its management. The framework of the FLMCS places all state forest land within one of four land management classifications. The classifications are: (1) General Stewardship, (2) Focused Stewardship, (3) Special Use, and (4) High Value Conservation Area. Subclasses are assigned for the specific forest resources that require a Focused Stewardship, Special Use or High Value Conservation Area Classification. A major modification of the FLMCS is defined as one that cumulatively exceeds 500 acres within one year. When changes in excess of 500 acres are proposed, a 45 day public comment period is held to allow review and suggestions. The Southwest Oregon District is holding a public comment period on changes in the FLMCS in conjunction with the FY 2015 AOP comment period. At the close of the public comment period, the Department will consider the public comments and make final decisions on the proposed changes. The District Forester will forward the draft final changes along with any public comments to the NWO Area Director and the State Forester for review and final approval.

In 2013, the Board of Forestry modified the FLMCS to add a new classification called High Value Conservation and rename Special Stewardship to Special Use. As a result of this significant change to the FLMCS, the District took this opportunity to do a thorough reevaluation of all the classifications within the district. Northern Spotted Owl cores became HVCA's, State listed plant species, and the stream bank zone and inner zone of riparian management areas (RMA) are now proposed to be classified as High Value Conservation areas.

The following tables from the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan 2003 have been modified to reflect these changes:

· · ·	•		
Classification	BOF	CSL	Total Acres
Focused Stewardship	10,516	7,253	17,769
Special Use	188	215	403
High Value Conservation Area	897	338	1,234
General Stewardship	1,082	1,249	2,330

Table B-1. SWO District Acres, by Stewardship Class and Fund*

Table B-2. Forest Land Management Classifications for SWO District – Focused and Special Subclasses (Acres)

	Focused Stewardship	Special Use	High Value Conservation Area
Administrative Sites	0	1	0
Agriculture, Grazing	0	0	0
Aquatic & Riparian	2,741	0	693
Cultural Resource	0	0	0
Domestic Water Use	4	0	0
Energy & Minerals	0	11	0
Operationally Limited	0	16	0
Plants	1,025	0	72
Recreation	20	12	0
Research/Monitoring	21	0	0
Transmission	0	150	0
Visual	1,823	212	0
Wildlife Habitat	12,135	0	470

*Acres in Table 2 and Table 3 include overlapping classifications.



Department of Forestry

State Forester's Office 2600 State Street Salem, OR 97310-1336 503-945-7200 FAX 503-945-7212 www.oregon.gov/ODF

- To: Liz Dent, State Forest Division Chief
- From: Doug Decker, State Forester

Date: June 25, 2014



Subject: Implementation of the Revised Forest Land Management Classification Rule on State Forests

This memo addresses approval of the implementation of the revised Forest Land Management Classification System (FLMCS) rule, including the new High Value Conservation Areas and Special Use classifications, on State Forest lands managed by the following districts: Astoria, Coos, Forest Grove, North Cascade, Southwest Oregon, Tillamook, West Oregon, and Western Lane.

On June 5, 2013, the Oregon Board of Forestry adopted a revision to the FLMCS rule (OAR 629-035-0055) that added the classifications of High Value Conservation Area and Special Use while removing the Special Stewardship Classification. The purpose of this rule revision was to increase the visibility of the important conservation strategies that were already occurring on State Forests.

It was clear that implementation of this rule revision would result in a major change to the FLMCS maps/data and would be required to be available for public comment for 30-days (OAR 629-035-0060). Upon approval of the rule revision, the districts were directed to begin the task of updating the FLMCS data with the goal of having draft maps available for a public comment process that would occur concurrently with the normal 45-day public comment period for the Annual Operations Plans.

The public comment period occurred between March 17 and May 2, 2014 and included three open houses that focused on the implementation of the revised FLMCS rules, especially the location and purpose of High Value Conservation Areas. The open house were held early in the public comment period at the Forest Grove, Astoria, and Tillamook district offices. In response to the public comment period, the Division received:

- Eight letters/emails
- Approximately 1,700 form letter type emails
- Fifteen comments generated through an on-line survey

Almost all of the comments were generally supportive of the implementation of the FLMCS. Many of the comments included a request that the Department improve the durability of the High Value Conservation Areas; this issue is currently being addressed through the Alternative Forest Management Plan Project.

Several individuals indicated that old growth should be classified as High Value Conservation Areas. After reviewing the management strategies for old growth in the Northwest Oregon, Southwest Oregon, and Elliott State Forest Management Plans, I have found that old growth stands (as defined in those plans) qualifies for classification as High Value Conservation Areas under the Unique, Threatened, or Endangered Plants subclass. I have directed the districts to include existing old growth stands as High Value Conservation Areas in their final FLMCS designations.

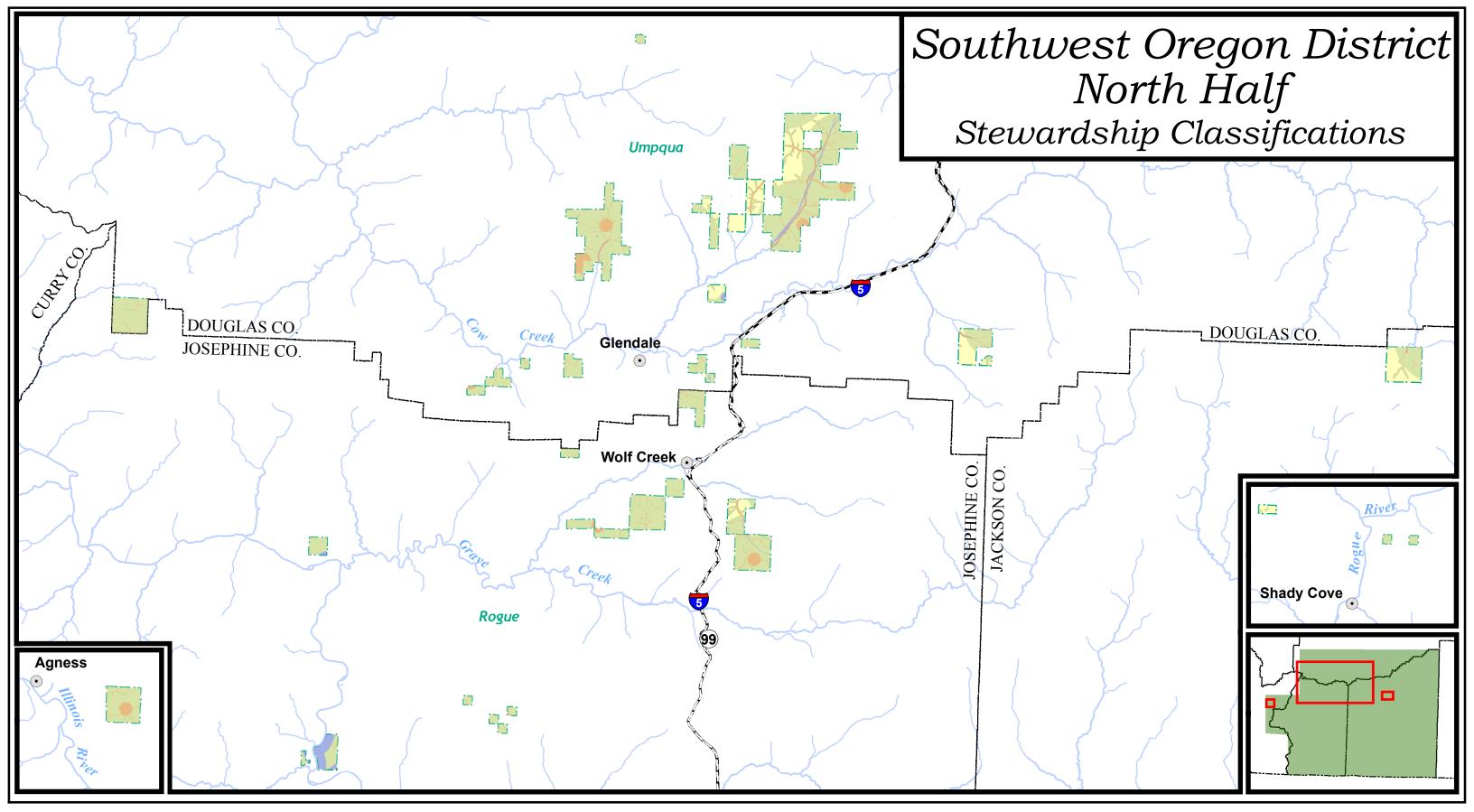
After reviewing the draft FLMC maps/data, the public input, the recommendations from the District Foresters and Area Directors, and consistent with OAR 629-035-0060 (2), I am approving the revised FLMCS for Astoria, Coos, Forest Grove, North Cascade, Southwest Oregon, Tillamook, West Oregon, and Western Lane Districts.

Doug Decker

State Forester

6.23.14

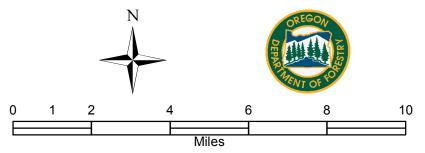
Date



Stewardship Classfications

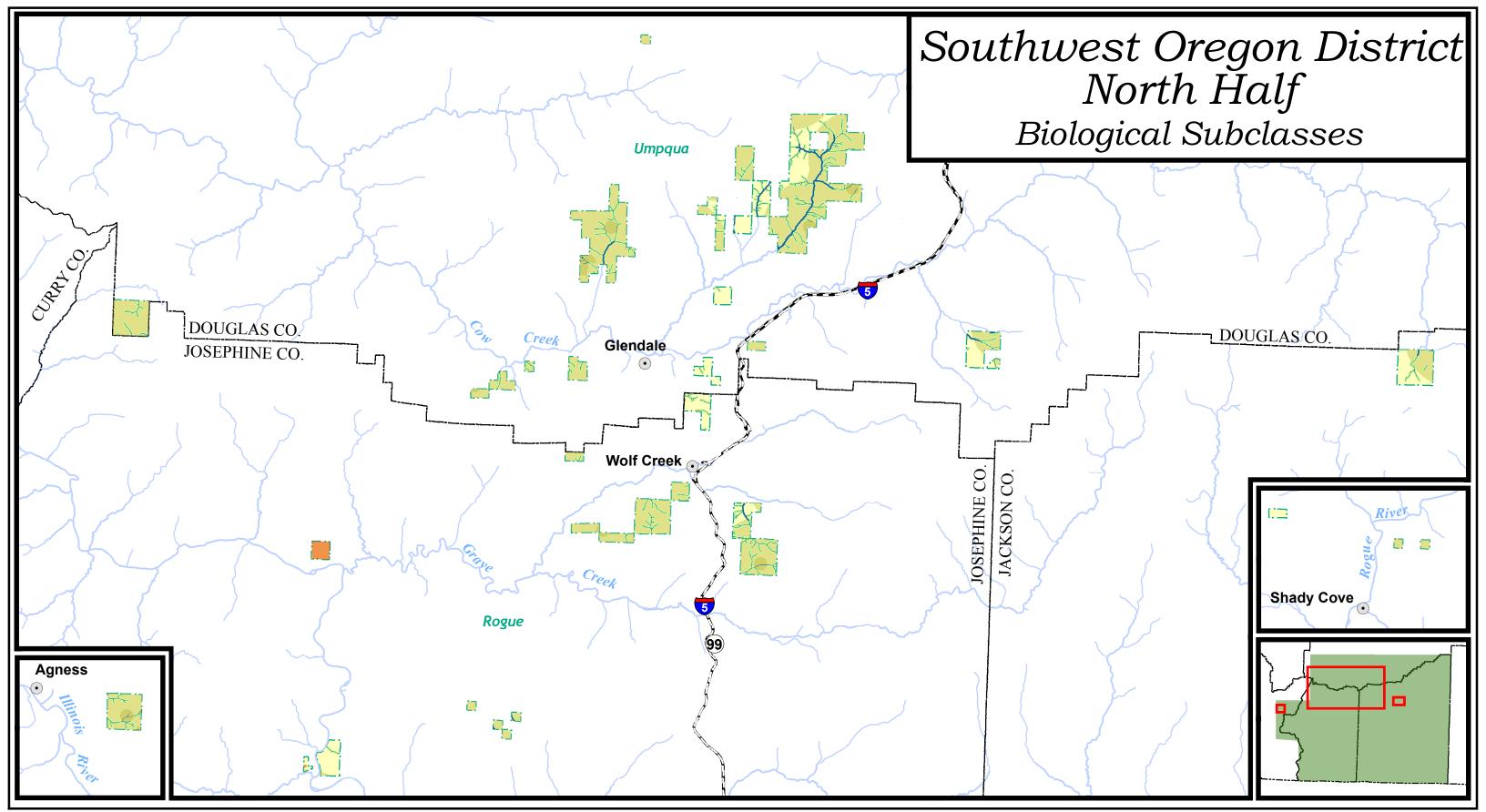
- 📂 High Value Conservation Area
- Special Use
- Focused
- Other

- Towns ---
- ---- Roads ----- Streams, Large
 - Streams, Medium
- Management Basins



This product is for informational purposes, and may not be suitable for legal, engineering or surveying purposes. This information or data is provided with the understanding that conclusions drawn from such information are the responsibility of the user.

MW 3/14/2014



High Value Conservation Areas

- H Unique, Threatened or Endangered Plants
- K Aquatic and Riparian Habitat
- 🖊 Wildlife Habitat

Focused

- K Unique, Threatened or Endangered Plants
- Kappatic and Riparian Habitat
- 栲 Wildlife Habitat

Towns

• Towns ---- Roads Streams ----- Streams

Roads

Management Basins

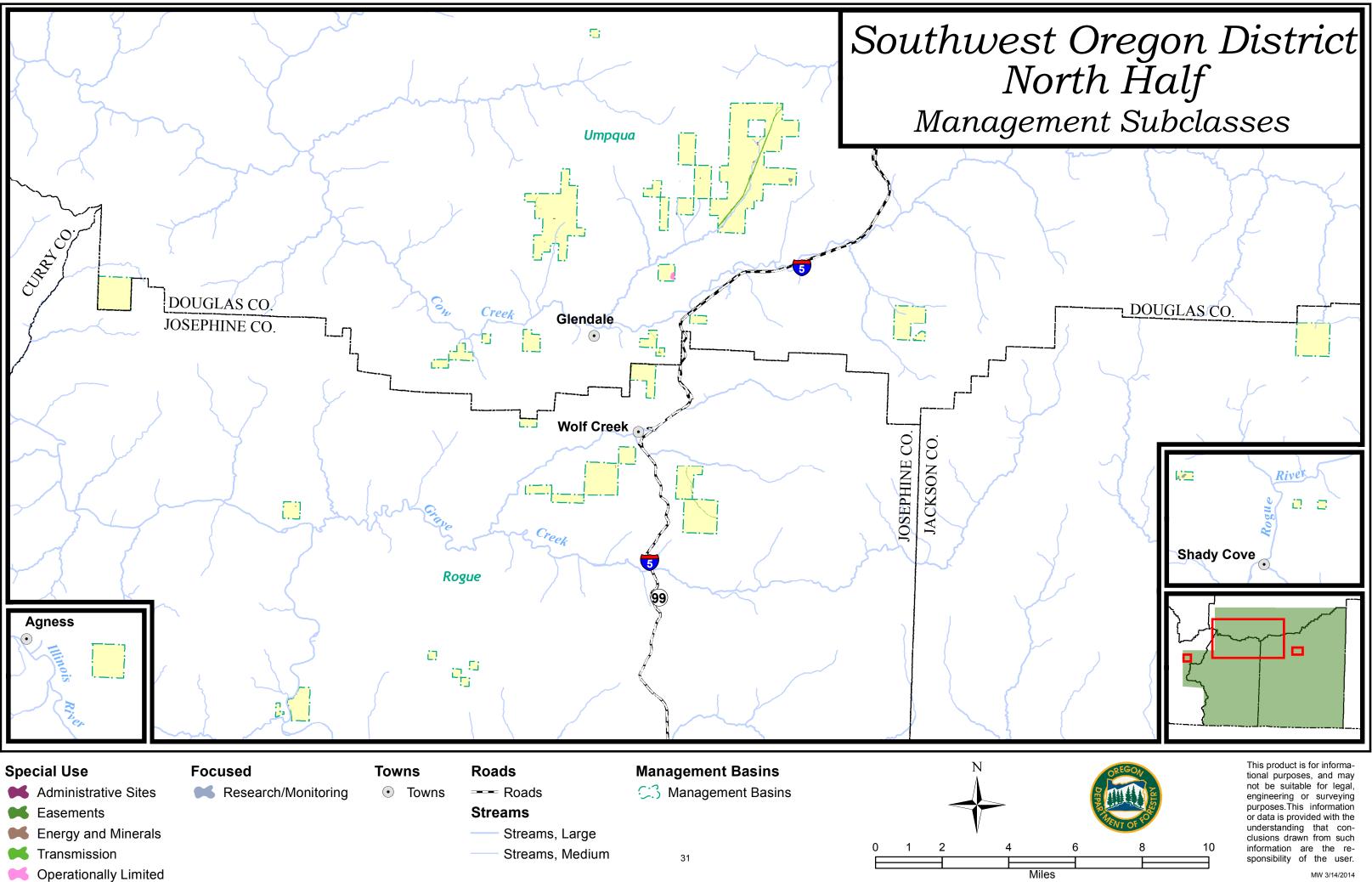
ams Streams, Large Streams, Medium 30



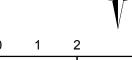
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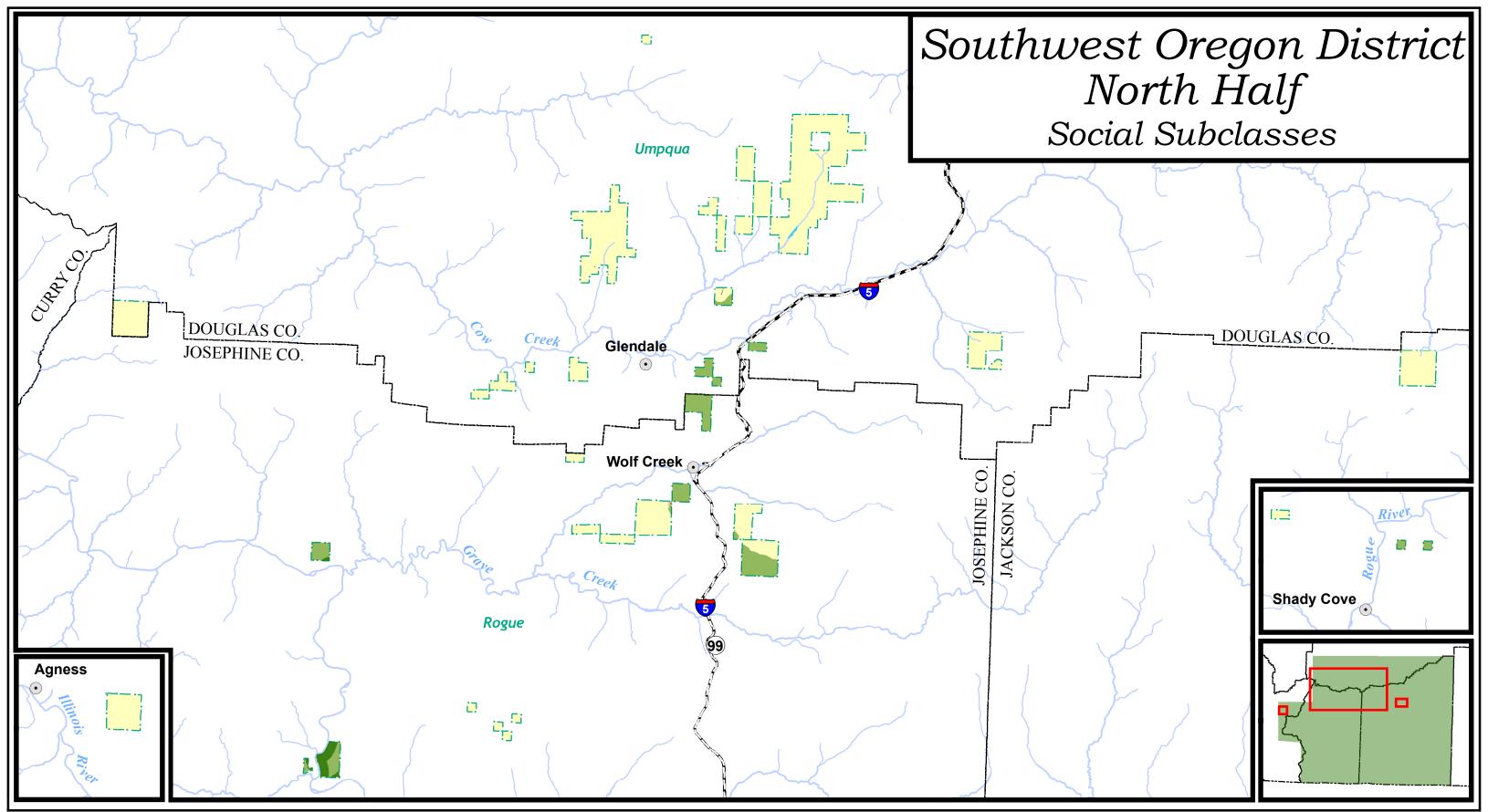


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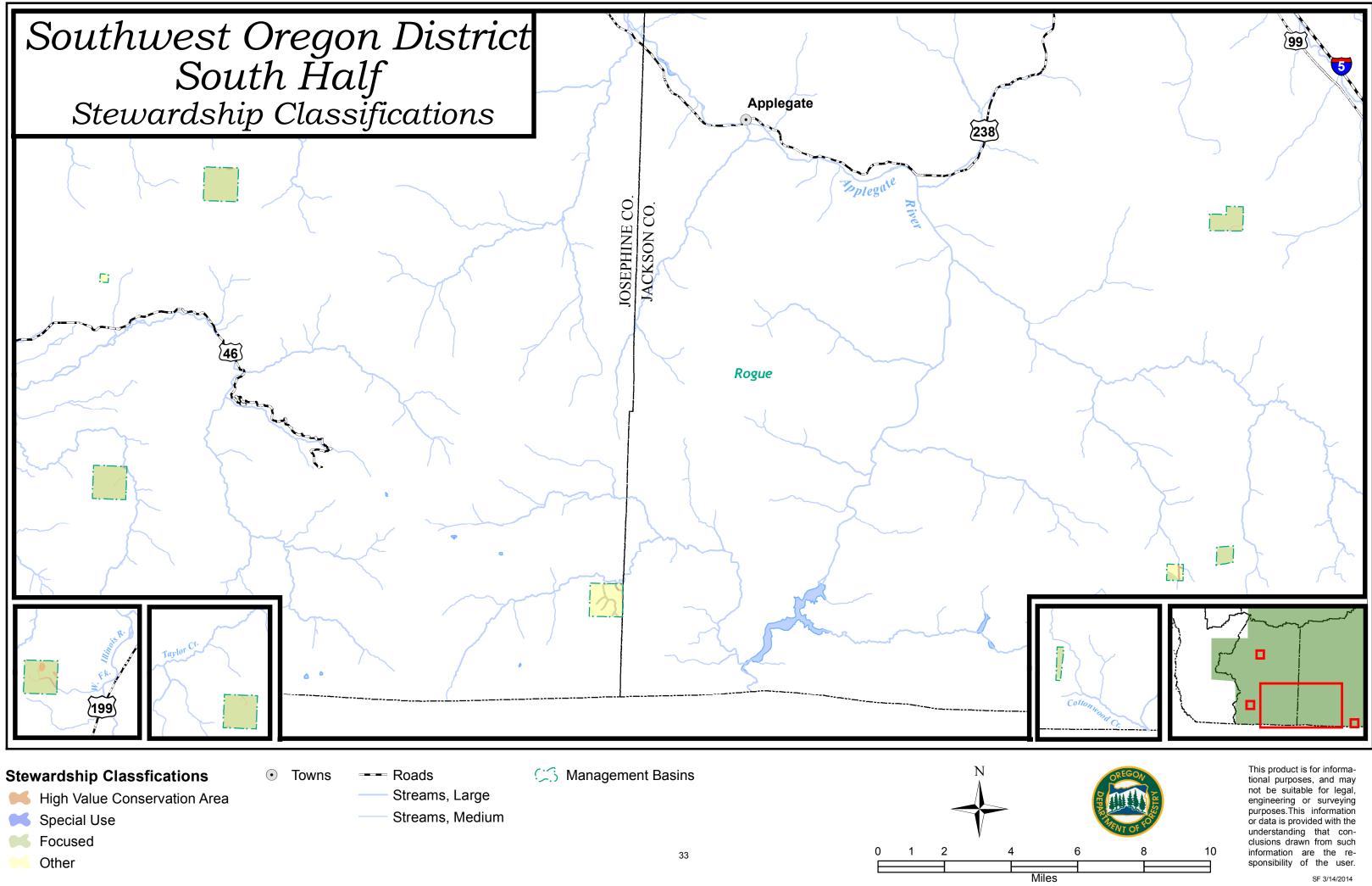


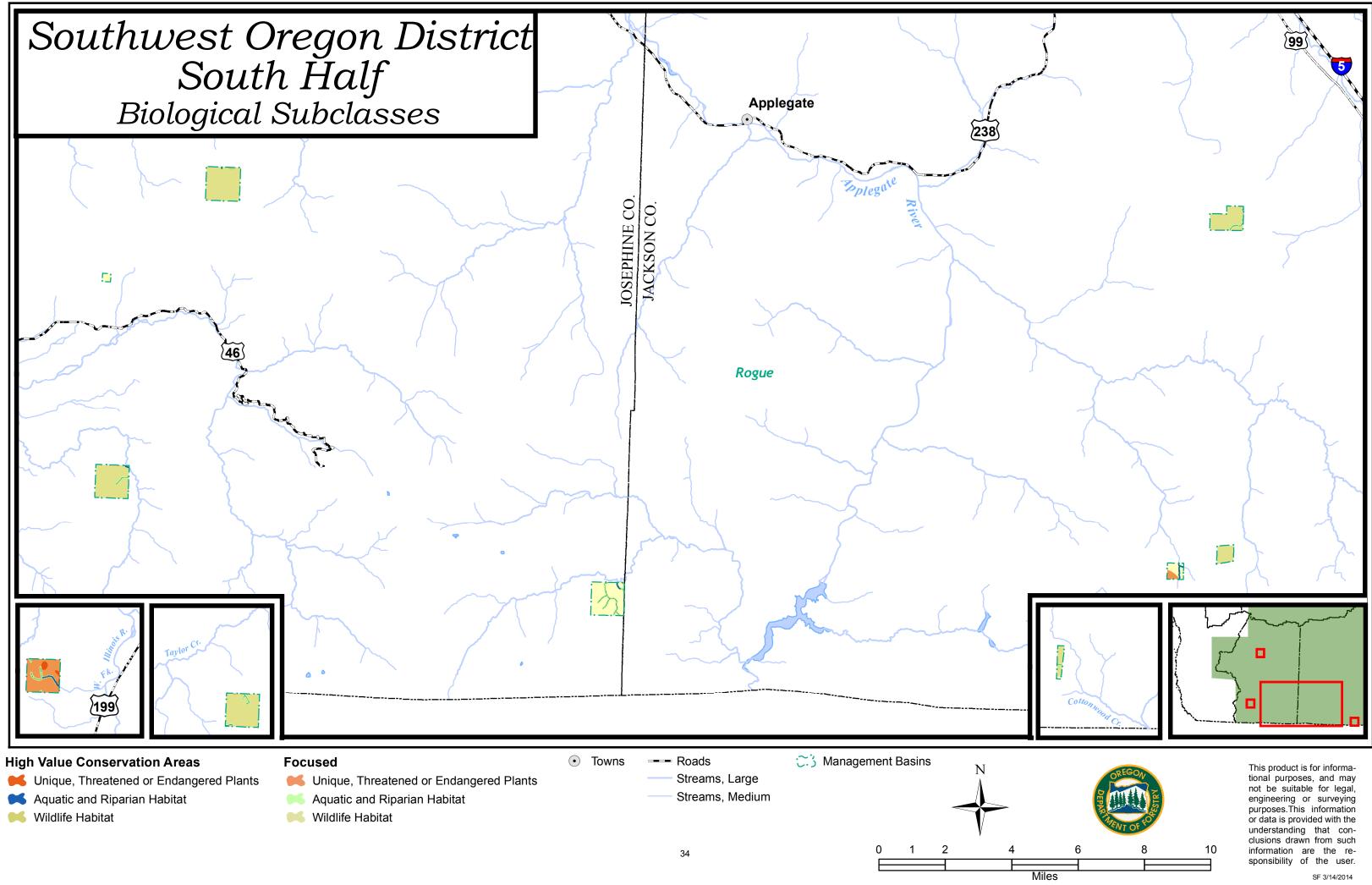


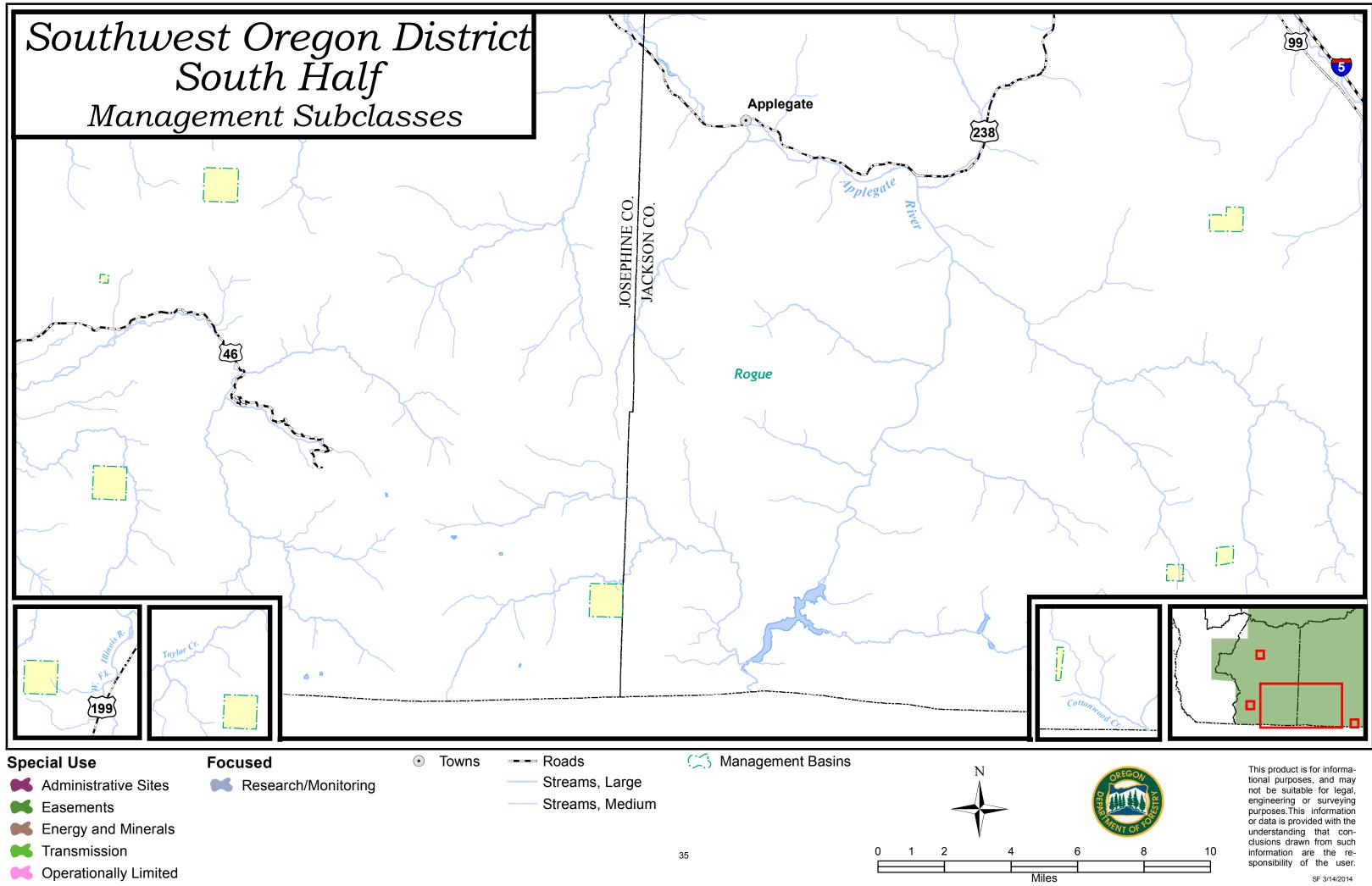


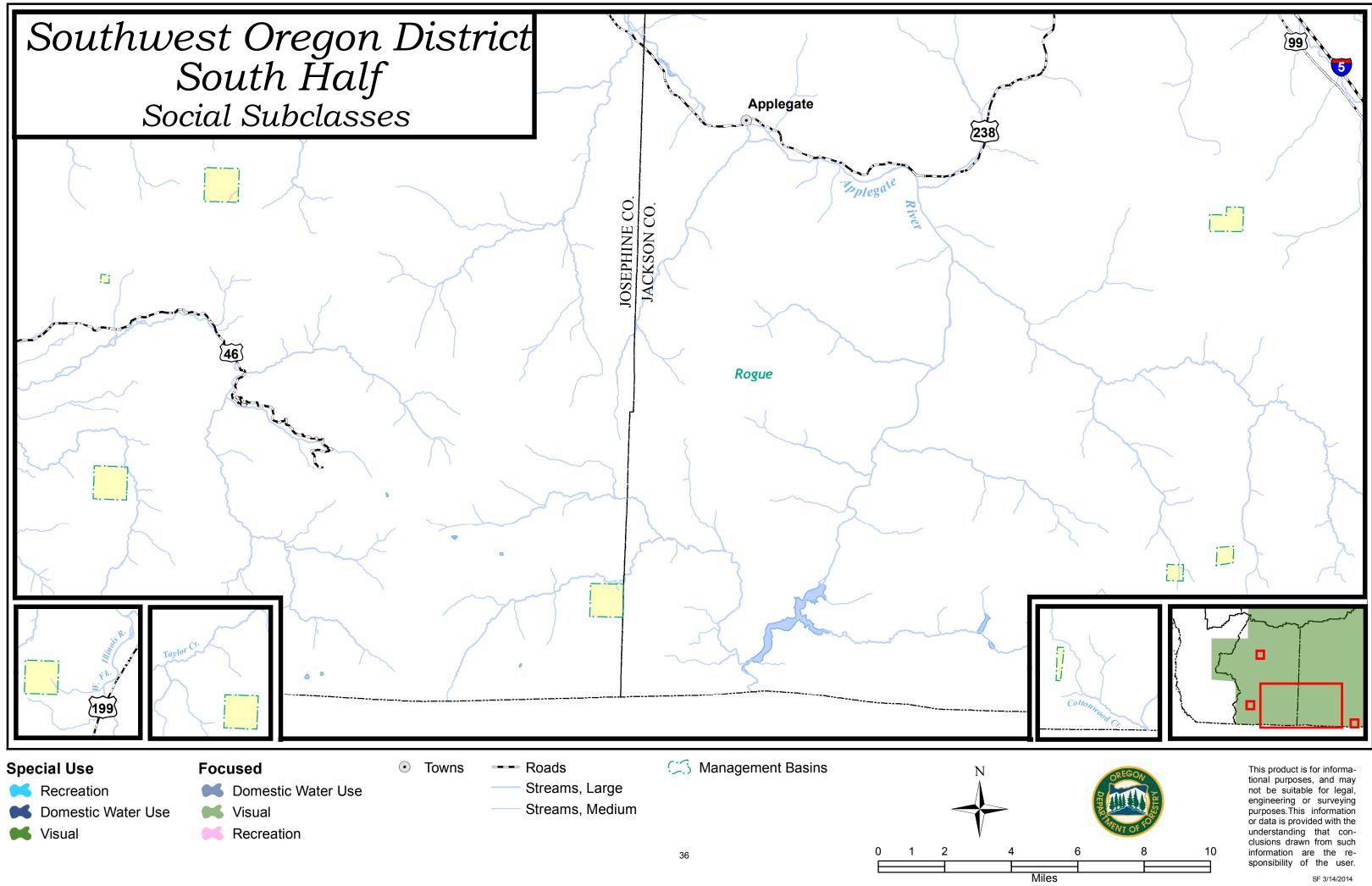


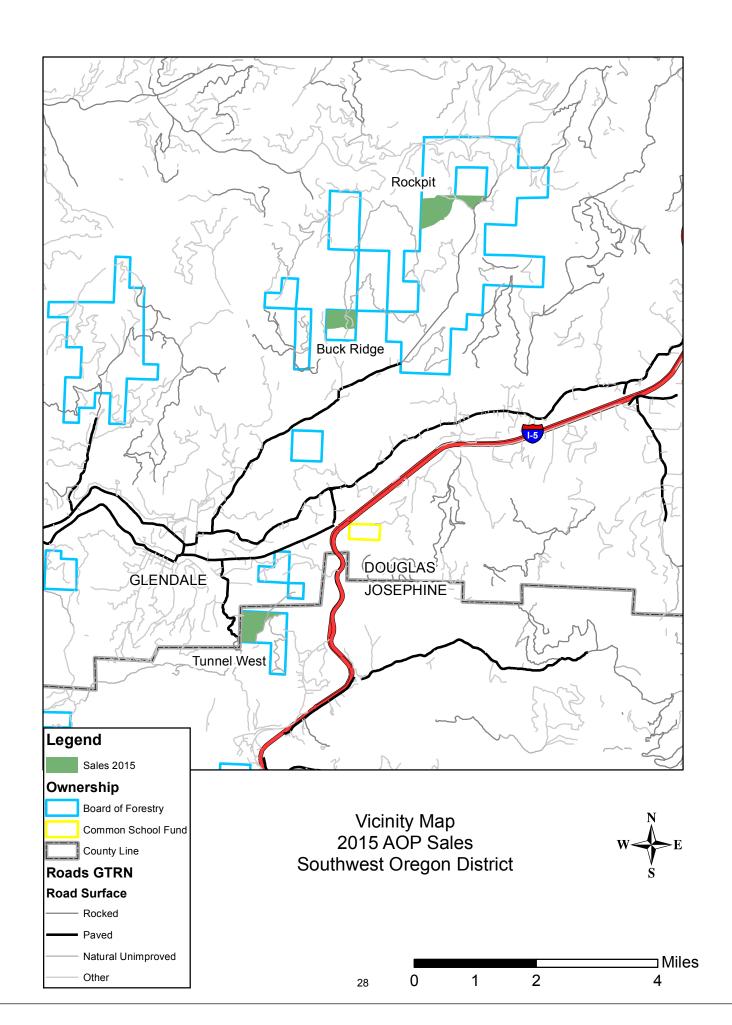
This product is for informational purposes, and may not be suitable for legal, engineering or surveying purposes. This information or data is provided with the understanding that conclusions drawn from such information are the responsibility of the user.











-Appendix D-

During the course of the planning process Oregon Department of Forestry foresters and planners have coordinated their efforts with specialists within other areas of expertise such as biologists and geologists within ODF and in other organizations such as Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife service.

Each year the Southern Oregon District consults with a group of peers on the individual timber sales in a pre-operations tour, GIS analysis or other correspondence and a presentation of the annual operations plan. This year the geotechnical specialist reviewed the Tunnel West sale in the field for roads and high risk areas. The riparian specialist reviewed the sale using GIS and consultation over the phone. The biologist was not tasked with a biological assessment on the primary sales, so was able to review both sales with GIS, phone conversations and the AOP meeting. A private botanist was consulted over the phone about the sale areas for T & E plants. Most of these specialists attended the AOP presentation as well.

The annual operations plan was reviewed by the US FWS. ODF received comments by US FWS on the Rockpit 2015 alternate sale from this plan. The ODF biologist rated this timber sale as low risk to northern spotted owls and US FWS concurred in a report dated April 29, 2014.

-Appendix E-

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS FOR THE 2014 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

The Oregon Department of Forestry provided a formal public comment period for the 2014 Annual Operations Plans from March 17th to May 2nd, 2014.

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 operates in the best interest of Oregonians conducting business in an open way with opportunities for scrutiny to foster and maintain public confidence that ODF operations are benefiting 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 FMP's and IP's, and to become aware of any new information that could affect a planned operation or improve its efficiency or effectiveness.

The State Forest Advisory Committee (SFAC) reviewed the Southwest Oregon District FY15 AOP and had no specific comments.

No comments were received that were specific to Southwest Oregon District. However, there were some general comments that applied to all State Forests; these comments and the Divisions responses are available for public review on the ODF's website at:

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/Annual_Operations_Plans.shtml