

# Memo

**To:** Andy White, Northwest Oregon Area Director

**From:** Mike Totey, West Oregon District Forester

**CC:** Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief  
Brian Pew, State Forests Deputy Division Chief

**Date:** June 22, 2016

**Re:** Information Item - Approved Annual Operations Plan for 2017

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The 2017 State Forests Annual Operations Plan for the West Oregon District is attached for your review and approval. During my review of this plan, I have found that it is consistent with the Northwest Forest Management Plan, the 2012 West Oregon District Implementation Plan (IP), and the 2017 Annual Operations Planning guidance.

This Annual Operations Plan (AOP) covers proposed forest management activities for fiscal year 2017. The seven primary sales included in this AOP are projected to generate 13.5 MMBF of volume.

Consistent with the Program's 2017 AOP guidance, the District has included seven alternate sales, which were subjected to the same process of review and public comment as the regular sales.

These alternate sales may be used to replace primary sales that cannot be completed as planned. The alternate sales also allow flexibility for the program to respond to additional direction or policy changes that may be proposed by the Board of Forestry or State Forester. Such policy changes may directly or indirectly influence harvest levels during the 2017 fiscal year.

During its preparation, this plan was reviewed by technical specialists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Their comments were received verbally at the District's AOP meeting. Their comments have been documented and are on file at the district office. The draft annual operations plan also underwent a 45-day public comment period, where no specific

comments were received. There are no changes to the annual operations plan from public comments.

Biological Assessments for three alternate operations (Sweet Lass, Cabin Fever, and Thin Women) were sent to the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for review. In a letter dated June 15, 2016 from the USFWS all three operations were considered to have a low risk.

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 2017 Annual Operations Planning guidance.

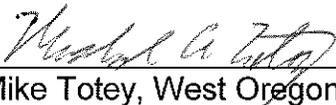
There is no direct reference to the conditional decertification and potential disposal of about 1,800 acres of CSL that could happen within the FY17 operating period.

Reforestation activities are aligned with FMP objectives and budget considerations. Roads management to provide safe, efficient access will be accomplished through timber sale contracts and a minor amount through a road maintenance contract. The FY17 AOP and fiscal budget do not include any new recreation facilities, recreation staff, and very minimal recreation support.

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.

The plan is also available on the ODF web site at:  
[http://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/state\\_forests/annual\\_operations\\_plans.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/state_forests/annual_operations_plans.aspx)

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Totey, West Oregon District, District Forester

6-22-16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# **WEST OREGON DISTRICT 2017 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN**

# WEST OREGON DISTRICT

## 2017 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

### OVERVIEW

This plan describes the activities and outcomes that Oregonians can expect to see on State Forests in the West Oregon District for Fiscal Year 2017 (July 2016 - June 2017).

Forests on the West Oregon District are actively managed, valued by many Oregonians for their mixture of environmental, economic, and social benefits. This plan supports this mixture and provides a balance of these benefits as required by Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 629-035-0020). We strive to manage the forest sustainably, so that the benefits from the forest can be delivered into perpetuity. The forest harvesting is planned at a sustainable level; a level that our computer models suggest can be harvested year after year without reduction.

Forest habitat is expected to develop so the forest has a mixture of habitat types for all of Oregon's native wildlife. Recreational opportunities are diverse and high quality, allowing for off-highway vehicles, bicycling, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and more, striving to minimize user and environmental conflicts in the context of a working forest.

Managing a large public forest has its challenges. In addition to the challenges of providing the opportunities described above, the forest is expected to be financially self-supporting. About two-thirds of the revenues from Board of Forestry (Forest Development Fund (FDF)) timber sales go to local counties and other taxing districts, including schools. The revenue on "Common School Fund" Lands (CSL), owned by the State Land Board, goes directly to the Common School Fund which is managed by the Department of State Lands. ODF uses the remaining third of the FDF revenue to manage the forests and keep them healthy, through activities including fire protection, tree planting, thinning, research and monitoring, recreation services, road maintenance and stream improvement. These activities on CSL are funded by billing the State Land Board. Current financial constraints are currently limiting many activities and you will see this theme throughout the year's plan. We are striving to continue to provide the current opportunities.

Every year on the West Oregon District, we learn new things and find new challenges and opportunities. In preparing this plan, we have consulted with geotechnical specialists, wildlife biologists, fish biologists, aquatic specialists, engineers, adjacent landowners, and a variety of interest groups.

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. The public comment period ran from April 4 – May 20, 2016 and one comment was received for the district.



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

- Planting 155,000 trees on 350 acres and conducting vegetation and animal damage management activities on 1600 acres to ensure the survival and growth of these plantations.
- Maintaining a 313 mile road network that provides access to timber harvest, other forest management activities, as well as various recreational opportunities. Improve and maintain roads to ensure ditch water is dispersed and filtered, keeping runoff from entering streams.
- Conducting surveys for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets to protect their habitat and comply with federal laws. Surveying numerous streams for the presence of fish.
- Protecting streams and water resources through a series of buffers and seasonal restrictions activities.
- Continuing to assess and address ice damaged stands from the November 2014 Ice Storm. This will most likely result in additional salvage timber sales.
- Providing large wood for a partnership with the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. These projects include wood placement in Salmon Creek and a tributary of Cline Creek in the Upper Yaquina River Basin and Wolf Creek in the Big Elk Basin. Earmarking wood for these projects will be addressed in timber sales associated with this AOP but the actual instream work will most likely occur in FY2018 or 2019.
- Habitat development projects such as retaining green trees in clearcut areas, and leaving down wood, all for wildlife benefits in harvest areas and future forests.
- Reviewing District roads to develop plans to block or vacate roads to help manage trash dumping and irresponsible target shooting.
- Beginning the planning cycle to harvest approximately 13.5 million board feet of timber volume, through timber harvest operations, generating revenue of an estimated \$3.8 Million. This harvest level is in alignment with longer term plans and modeling to ensure it is sustainable and promotes the development of a mixture of habitat types across the landscape.
- Providing a safe and clean environment for the myriad of dispersed activities that occur across the forest – hunting, camping, angling, sight-seeing, target shooting, mushroom picking, etc.
- Maintaining and managing the existing motorized and non-motorized trail networks through adopt-a-trail agreements, striving to protect the trail investments, provide for user safety, and protect water quality.
- Supporting the pre-planned organized motorized and non-motorized events. Evaluate new proposals for fit with forest goals.
- Providing a firewood cutting program and miscellaneous forest products permits (salal, mushrooms, etc.) as done in 2016.
- Supporting ongoing research on the district, in partnership with research cooperatives and universities.

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# **WEST OREGON DISTRICT**

## **2017 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This annual operations plan (AOP) is written in alignment to the district's 2012 Implementation Plan. The AOP covers the State Forest lands managed by the West Oregon District for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, which begins July 1, 2016 and ends June 30, 2017. It describes how the activities and projects undertaken by the district will achieve the goals and objectives of the 2012 West Oregon District Implementation Plan (IP) and the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan (FMP). Refer to the district IP for more specific information on history, physical characteristics, and other resource information on the district.

The management activities planned for FY 2017 are based on the range of objectives established in the *2012 West Oregon District Implementation Plan* (Table 1 below), which are described in the 2015 IP Minor Modification addressed below, as well as the assumption that budget allotments will be similar to FY 2016.

This AOP, as prepared, is aligned with the proposed 2017 IP minor modification of the Landscape Design. The modification will be finalized and approved prior to the approval of the AOP. Appendix F outlines the proposed IP landscape design modification. The summary document of the AOP is divided into five categories: Integrated Forest Management, Planning and Information Systems, Public Information and Education, Administration, and Appendices.

The proposed harvest operations are planned to be laid out, contracts completed, and auctioned or submitted to Salem for processing during the FY 2017 time period. The actual on-the-ground operations will likely not occur during FY2017 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 FY 2017 time period.

A 45-day public comment period runs from April 4, 2016 through May 18, 2016. The District Forester will consider the comments received during this period and make any changes or modifications that are determined necessary, prior to approving the AOP.

At the close of the public comment period, the District Forester will forward these changes with any public comments to the Area Director and State Forester for review and approval.

The accomplishment 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 Oregon Department of Forestry website at <http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/reports.aspx>.

## **INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS**

### **Timber Harvest Operations**

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

The planned timber harvest operations are within the total acres objective in the 2012 West Oregon District IP. Activities in the AOP will contribute revenue to the counties with the overall objective of 13.5 MMBF.

It is estimated that active management will result in producing approximately 12.3 million board feet of conifer volume and 1.2 million board feet of hardwood volume, for a total of 13.5 million board feet. These FY2017 harvest operations are projected to generate gross revenues of approximately \$4,124,260. With an approximate total project work cost of \$325,000 anticipated, the net revenue produced is expected to be about \$3,799,260. Of this net revenue, approximately \$3,190,823 will be generated from Board of Forestry lands and the remaining \$608,437 will come from Common School lands. Refer to the Appendix A, “Timber Harvest Operations - Financial Summary” table for more detail on volumes and values.

In addition to revenue from timber sales, the district is anticipating selling approximately 70 minor forest products permits resulting in an additional \$7,000 of revenue.

Table 1 compares the proposed acres by harvest type<sup>1</sup> in this AOP to the harvest acre ranges specified in the 2015 IP Minor Modification. Total planned acres in this AOP are 976 net acres (approximately 2.5% of the district’s total acreage) which achieves the annual volume objective, in addition to making up for some of the volume (approximately 5 MMBF) which was not accomplished in the FY13 and FY14 AOP’s. Harvest activities (net acres) in this AOP consist of 72% partial cut and 28% regeneration harvest. The anticipated

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<sup>1</sup> The definitions of the harvest types used to describe timber harvesting on State Forests can be found on the [State Forests website](#) under Forest Management and Planning. Briefly, a Modified Clearcut is the most common of three type of Regeneration Harvest (or clearcut) that may occur on State Forests. The defining characteristics of Modified Clearcuts are that they meet the structural component standards of the FMP (green tree, snag, and down wood).

harvest acres, volume, and revenue for each proposed operation in this AOP are listed in the “Harvest Operations – Financial Summary” table in Appendix A, while a vicinity map of these harvest operations can be found in Appendix B.

Table 1. Annual Operations Plan objectives compared to annual objectives identified in the 2012 West Oregon District Implementation Plan. All values are in net acres.

Silvicultural Activity	Modified IP Annual Objective		2017 AOP Objective
	Low	High	
Partial Cut Harvest	0	1,200	707
Regeneration Harvest	255	400	269

The district has included 7 alternate operations in this AOP. These alternate operations may be used to replace primary operations that cannot be completed as planned.

The net acres listed in Table 1 and the individual Pre-Operation Reports excludes the acreage contained in roads, stream buffers and no-harvest areas within the operation areas. The net acres reflect the amount of ground that will actually be in the operations.

All of the primary and alternate harvest operations and many of the other forest management activities have been review by ODF’s wildlife biologists, aquatic specialist, geotechnical engineer, staff engineer, and operations coordinator, as well as fish and wildlife biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Information on operations that will occur within non-habitat buffers of Marbled Murrelet Management Areas 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 C.

Some smaller additional operations targeting infrastructure maintenance may also produce timber volume during the 2017 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.

The landscape design associated with the IP shows the Desired Future Condition (DFC) for state forest land in the district. Areas designated to become complex forest are indicated as either Layered (LYR) or Older Forest Structure (OFS). Stands not planned for LYR or OFS are designated as General (GEN). A stand with a DFC of GEN may develop into any of the five stand structures defined in the Northwest Forest Management Plan.

During FY 2017, regeneration harvests on the District will all be modified clearcuts. Partial cut harvests will include both light thinning (36%) and moderate thinning (64%).

Regeneration Harvest - The IP states that regeneration harvesting will occur primarily in areas designated as DFC GEN. Most of these harvests will be in Understory (UDS) stands and some will be in Closed Single Canopy (CSC) stands. The 269 acres of modified

clearcut harvest (Primary Operations) in this plan consists of four timber sales. Ages range from 50 - 155 year old Douglas-fir and 49 - 80 year old Red Alder trees. In these units, 208 acres are located in areas designated as DFC GEN and 61 acres are located in areas designated as DFC Complex. The DFC of these 61 acres will be changed in a minor modification to the IP (see Appendix F). The current condition of these stands by acreage is 82% UDS and 18% LYR. Approximately 50% of these acres have moderate to severe ice damage.

Partial Cut Harvest – The majority of operation areas included in this AOP will employ standard thinning prescriptions on stands designated as DFC GEN. In the FY 2017 operations plan, 707 acres of the partial cutting (Primary Operations) are planned in three timber sales. These timber sales contain a total of 12 plantations that range from 29 - 39 years old. Nine acres, located in a non-habitat buffer of a MMMA are designated as DFC LYR. All stands designated for thinning consist primarily of Douglas-fir with some western hemlock, red alder, and bigleaf maple and are currently classified mostly as CSC or UDS stand types. See Appendix A, Forest Structure Summary.

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 not limited to) maintaining culverts and other road drainage structures, using sediment control devices in road ditches when necessary, and seasonal restrictions on logging roads and hauling operations. Culvert installment and replacement in live streams will be conducted between July 1 and September 15. Operations outside of this period will be reviewed with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W). Riparian management areas result in leave trees adjacent to the stream which protect stream temperature, provide nutrients, protects banks, and eventually provide wood to improve fish habitat.

## **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.

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 per acre (class 1 & 2) during regeneration harvest. Stand Level Inventory data indicates that there is approximately 185 cubic feet of Class 1 & 2 conifer DWD per acre over the district. These numbers do not include additions from recent wind events or all of the snags & DWD created with recent timber sale contracts.

Another opportunity 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 arrest 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.

Snag and Down Wood Inputs - In all four of the proposed primary sale modified clearcuts, five trees per acre will be left standing in the units which should provide future legacy trees. In time through natural processes, some of them will become down wood and snags. There are abundant snags and down wood in two of the four primary sales due to ice damage which occurred in November 2014. An attempt will be made to leave some of the snags were they do not pose a safety risk. No effort will be made to add more.

## **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. This will be achieved through a variety of silvicultural prescriptions across diverse stands types.

The District's vision for future development of complex and general stands on the landscape is described and mapped in the 2012 District Implementation Plan. The Landscape Design has a goal of at least 31 percent of the district stands to be DFC – Complex structure, either Layered (LYR) or Older Forest Structure (OFS). The “Timber Harvest Operations – Forest Structure Summary” table in Appendix A 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.

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.

The development of the landscape design during implementation planning is 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.

This year the district is proposing a Minor Modification to the Landscape Design of approximately 61 acres. This minor modification is detailed in Appendix F.

### **Harvest Operations within Terrestrial Anchor Sites and Aquatic Anchor**

The IP implemented the State Forests' Species of Concern Strategies that specifically identifies fish and wildlife species of concern on the West Oregon District. Two of these strategies are Terrestrial Anchor Sites (TAS) and Aquatic Anchor (AA) sites.

Terrestrial Anchor Sites (TAS) are intended to benefit terrestrial wildlife species of concern, especially those associated with older forest or interior habitat conditions, those sensitive to forest fragmentation, or those that do not readily disperse across younger forest conditions. Management within a TAS is intended to be limited. When it does occur, it should emulate natural small-scale disturbance patterns, and should minimize short-term negative impacts to habitat. All areas that were designated as TAS were designated for the development of complex structure in the Landscape Design.

Aquatic Anchor (AA) sites are watersheds where salmon and aquatic amphibian conservation is of concern. Riparian management strategies beyond those described in the FMP will be applied within AAs. In addition, areas designated for the development of complex structure in the Landscape Design are clustered around streams important to fish in the AAs.

The Species of Concern Strategies provide long term goals for TAS and AA, with the management activities within those areas designed to achieve those goals. These strategies have not identified specific limits to the total area that can be harvested within these areas; however, the district and resource specialist will be tracking the harvest trends within these areas to ensure the harvest prescriptions and rate is consistent with the goals of these strategies.

Since the adoption of the TAS in the 2012, the district has not proceeded with an operation in these areas. In the future, great care will be given in selecting stands for harvest and developing prescriptions in these areas to ensure that these harvest activities achieve the goals of the TAS. Table 3 summarizes harvest operations within the TAS proposed in the 2017 AOP and the cumulative operations planned in TAS since the strategy was adopted (AOPs 2013 through 2017).

Table 3. Summary of Harvest Operations within TAS (Net Acres and Percent)

Acres within TAS	Current AOP (2017)		Cumulative Sold/Planned Harvest (Since 2013 AOP)	
	Clearcut	Partial Cut	Clearcut	Partial Cut
Entire District	269	707	1,528	1,723
Total – 36,633 ac % of Acres	< 1%	2%	4%	5%
<b>Green Mountain</b>	0	0	0	0
Total – 1,625 ac % of Acres	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Wolf Creek</b>	0	0	0	0
Total – 1,001 ac % of Acres	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All TAS	0	0	0	0
Total – 2,626 ac % of Acres	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 4 summarizes harvest operations within the AAs proposed in the 2017 AOP and the cumulative operations in AAs since the strategy was adopted (AOPs 2013 through 2017).

Table 4. Summary of Harvest Operations within AA (Net Acres and Percent on ODF)

Acres within AA's	Current AOP (2017)		Cumulative Sold/Planned Harvest (Since 2013 AOP)	
	Clearcut	Partial Cut	Clearcut	Partial Cut
Entire District	269	707	1,528	1,723
Total – 36,633 ac % of Acres	<1%	2%	4%	5%
<b>Rock Creek</b>	42	0	106	48
Total – 4,768 ac % of Acres	< 1%	0.0%	2%	1%
<b>Upper Yaquina – Amphibian Emphasis</b>	0	0	65	0
Total – 3,493 ac % of Acres	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%
<b>Wolf Creek</b>	0	178	141	178
Total – 3,194 ac % of Acres	0	5.5%	4.5%	5.5%
All Aquatic Anchors	42	178	312	226
Total – 11,455 ac % of Acres	<1%	1.5%	3%	2%

### Summary of Timber Harvest Operations by Basin

Table 5. Summary of Timber Harvest Operations (Primary Sales) in each basin. All values are in net acres.

Basin	2017 AOP	
	Partial Cut	Clearcut
Big Elk Creek	450	0
Luckiamute River	0	0
Marys River	0	122
Siletz River	0	44
Upper Yaquina River	257	103

## **Big Elk Creek Basin**

### **Primary Sales**

Little Elk Thin – A small portion of Area 2 is located in this management basin. Most of this sale is in the Upper Yaquina River Basin. See description under Upper Yaquina Basin.

Aire Apparent – This proposed sale consists of four partial cut areas totaling 189 net acres. These areas consist of 28-39 year old Douglas-fir plantations. The current condition of these areas are UDS or CSC and the DFC is GEN. All Areas are within the Wolf Creek Aquatic Anchor. Since these are thinning operations, the standard FMP RMA protection strategies will be applied.

Powerline Thin – This proposed sale consists of two partial cut areas totaling 256 net acres. These areas consist of 28 year old Douglas-fir plantations. The current condition of these areas is CSC and the DFC is GEN.

### **Alternate Sales**

Camp Adeer – This proposed sale consists of one 27 net acre modified clearcut. The timber types range from 24 - 71 year-old DF stand with scattered hardwoods. The current condition is UDS and the DFC is GEN.

Cabin Fever – This proposed sale consists of one 40 net acre modified clearcut and one 17 net acre partial cut. The timber consists of 28-30 year old DF plantations with a few scattered hardwoods. The current condition is CSC and UDS and the DFC is GEN. A small portion of Area 2 is located in the non-habitat buffer of Wolf Creek MMMA. Seasonal restrictions and other protection measures will be required in that portion. Area 2 is also within the Wolf Creek Aquatic Anchor. Since Area 2 is a thinning operation, the standard FMP RMA protection strategies will be applied.

## **Luckiamute River Basin**

### **Primary Sales**

There are no primary operations planned in this basin for FY 2017.

### **Alternate Sales**

Easter Gonner – This proposed sale consists of two modified clearcut areas totaling 83 net acres. In Area 1, the timber types ranges from a 42 - 59 year-old DF and DF/RA stands. Most of the area was thinned in 2011, and another portion was thinned in 2013. The area was heavily impacted by an ice storm in November 2014. The current condition is CSC and UDS. The DFC is GEN. Area 2 is a 79 year-old stand of DF that was previously thinned around 2000.

## **Marys River Basin**

### **Primary Sales**

Goat Shot – This proposed sale consists of two modified clearcut areas totaling 61 net acres. Both areas were heavily impacted by ice damage in November 2014. In Area 1 the timber types range from 74 – 155 year old DF and RA. In Area 2 the timber type is 72 year-old DF and RA. The current condition in Area 1 is LYR and UDS. The current condition in Area 2 is UDS. The DFC for Area 1 is LYR and OFS, for Area 2 it is LYR. A minor modification will be done in this AOP to change the DFC to GEN for both areas (see Appendix F).

Hot Plunkett – This proposed sale consists of two modified clearcut areas totaling 119 net acres. Area 1 is a 66 year-old DF/RA stand. In Area 2, the timber types ranges from a 53 - 85 year-old DF, RA and DF/RA mixed stands. Port-Orford Cedar is scattered throughout the understory. Portions of Area 2 were commercially thinned in 1998. Area 2 was heavily impacted by ice damage in November 2014. The current condition is UDS, with about one acre of LYR (which will be a Green Tree Retention area). The DFC is GEN. About one-third of this sale is located in the Upper Yaquina River Basin.

### **Alternate Sales**

Sweet Lass – This proposed sale consists of one modified clearcut area totaling 38 net acres. The stand is a 38 year-old DF plantation that was heavily impacted by ice damage in November 2014. The sale is at the edge of the Lasky Creek NSO Circle.

## **Siletz River Basin**

### **Primary Sales**

Rudder Road – This 44 net acre proposed modified clearcut is comprised of one area, the majority of which is 80 year-old Douglas-fir with scattered hardwood. The current condition is UDS and the DFC is GEN. This sale is within the Rock Creek Aquatic Anchor. Increased protection measures along all Type F and small perennial Type N streams will be implemented. Most of this sale area was commercially thinned in 2002.

### **Alternate Sales**

Lost Steere Combo – This proposed sale consists of two modified clear cuts totaling 49 net acres. Area 1 is 80 year-old DF stand with scattered RA. Area 2 is a 49 year-old DF stand containing patches of RA which was commercially thinned in 2006. The current condition of these areas is UDS and the DFC is GEN. All Areas are within the Rock Creek Aquatic Anchor. Increased protection measures along all Type F and small perennial Type N streams will be implemented in Areas 1 and 2.

Thin Woman – This proposed sale consists of three partial cut units totaling 145 net acres. These areas consist of 27-30 year old Douglas-fir plantations which have never had density management. The current condition of these Areas is CSC and the DFC is GEN. Areas 1 and 2 are within the Rock Creek Aquatic Anchor. No additional stream protection measures are required since this is a thinning operation. In Area 1, thinning will occur within the non-habitat buffers of two currently undesignated MMMA's. Area 3 will also thin in the non-habitat buffer of Upper Fall Creek MMMA. Seasonal restrictions and other protection measures will be required.

Little Thin on the Prairie – This proposed sale consists of three partial cut units totaling 129 net acres. These areas consist of 36 year old Douglas-fir plantations. The current condition of these Areas is UDS and the DFC is GEN. All areas are thinning in non-habitat buffer of the West Prairie MMMA. Seasonal restrictions and other protection measures will be required.

## **Upper Yaquina River Basin**

### **Primary Sales**

Half Pipe – This proposed sale consists of one 45 net acre modified clearcut. The timber types ranges from a 50 - 80 year-old DF, RA and DF/RA mixed stands. The current condition is UDS and the DFC is GEN.

Hot Plunkett – Two-thirds of this timber sale is located in the Marys River Basin. See sale description under the Marys River Basin section.

Little Elk Thin – This proposed sale consists of three partial cut units totaling 262 net acres. The sale areas consist of 29-32 year old Douglas-fir plantations. The current condition of these areas is UDS or CSC and the DFC is GEN, with the exception of a portion of Area 3 which is in the non-habitat buffer of Salmon Creek MMMA. The DFC for that portion of Area 3 is LYR. Seasonal restrictions and other protection measures will be required. A small portion of Area 2 is located in the Big Elk Creek Basin.

### **Alternate Sales**

There are no alternate operations planned in this basin for FY 2017.

## **Forest Roads Management**

The primary transportation focus is to protect and secure access for forest management activities. This involves constructing new roads where needed, vacating old roads that no longer meet current standards, and maintaining or upgrading existing roads. Other resource management activities and other users are also considered in the transportation

planning. The approximately 313 mile transportation system provides access for timber removal, recreation, fire control and removal of other forest products.

Visions, guiding principles, and techniques that are the framework of the District's road management program are discussed in detail in the IP and the Forest Roads Manual (2000), and govern the planning and implementation of the activities discussed in this section. Planning of these activities are Level III plans, as discussed in the Forest Road Manual.

As listed in Appendix A "Forest Roads Summary" table, it is estimated that 1.0 mile of new road construction and 1.0 mile of road improvements will be included with the FY 2017 operations plan. These roads will provide improved access for hauling forest products from the operation areas.

The District has conducted a detailed inventory of the District's road system, collecting information on road surfacing, condition, drainage, and stream crossings. This inventory was completed in conjunction with the Oregon Salmon Plan. This inventory will continue to be updated as staff time permits. For the FY 2017 operations plan, existing roads and drainage systems on designated haul routes of timber sales have been evaluated to determine high priority road or drainage structure maintenance, abandonment, replacement, or improvement projects.

All road maintenance and improvement will be confined to the haul routes. There will be no road vacating. The District has planned for wet weather, limited wet weather, and dry weather hauling by using existing rocked roads, improving existing dirt roads to a surfaced condition and surfacing some new construction. Drainage structures that are in need of replacement, and are on the haul routes, will be replaced with the timber sale that will use that haul route. Activities under this Plan will add approximately 1.0 mile of roads to the District's active road system.

Road maintenance will consist of re-shaping roads with a road grader, and applying spot rock where needed. Replacement of wear rock due to hauling will be applied post-harvest. Road improvement will consist of re-opening existing unsurfaced roads and applying a lift of rock for winter harvest operations. Drainage structure maintenance will be cleaning culvert inlets and outlets.

District activities to control noxious weeds consist primarily of controlling Scotch broom (and other brooms) in and around plantations. Most of these infestations start along roads and spread from there. Other species, which are occasionally targeted for control, include knotweeds, false brome and Himalayan blackberry. Approximately 10 miles of Noxious weed control is planned during this fiscal year and will be accomplished using District personnel and equipment. Much of this is spot treatment. All logging equipment will be inspected for cleanliness and washed if necessary before entering and leaving STATE lands to control the spread of noxious weeds.

## **Road Construction**

Since the collector roads are already in place on the district, any new roads will be short, low use, single lane spur roads averaging 14 feet wide. Approximately 80% of the roads to be constructed will be rocked with base rock, providing an all season surface for harvest operations only. Natural surfacing will be the final condition for the remaining new roads. The natural surface roads will be water barred, and blocked to restrict public vehicle access after harvest and/or prior to the beginning of the wet season. Restricting access to natural surface roads will control soil erosion and ensure that the drainage systems remain intact.

All roads to be constructed will be built on gentle, stable topography, to minimize slope stability concerns, soil erosion, and downstream water quality issues. However, if it is determined during timber sale layout that a new road must be constructed through steeper terrain, the staff engineer and area geo-technical specialist may be contacted and requested to conduct an onsite inspection and provide input related to mitigating any negative effects of road construction.

All road construction is classified as surfaced or unsurfaced spurs. All newly constructed roads will be built on side slopes less than 65% or on ridge tops. End-haul and full bench construction will be required on slopes exceeding 50%. All excavated material will be used in the constructed road prism or placed in stable waste areas.

All road construction projects are directly associated with this year's sale plan.

## **Road Improvement**

All road improvement projects are associated with commercial forest management operations and consist of upgrading the wet weather haul capacity of the road. All of the improvement activities will be performed on low use spur roads and will be accomplished using a dozer or road grader. There are no drainage structure issues associated with any spur improvement.

## **Road Access Management**

All surfaced and newly constructed or improved unsurfaced roads are categorized as active use roads. The unsurfaced roads will be blocked and water barred in the wet season. After the wet season, these roads may be re-opened and harvest activities may resume. Once harvesting is completed, these roads will be blocked, water barred, and temporary culverts removed until the next harvest entry. Road surfaces may be grass seeded to reduce erosion and protect water quality.

All haul routes which access the FY2017 timber sales are surfaced, all weather roads and are generally accessible to the public. There are exceptions where these roads access private timber lands and are gated. Unsurfaced roads that originate from non-gated public access roads will be blocked in wet weather to prevent damage to the roads. All primary haul route roads accessing the FY2017 timber sales have easements. Temporary access permits across private lands or approach permits to county roads may be required for several of the sales.

## **Road Maintenance**

District personnel and equipment are utilized to control roadside brush and spread grass seed along dirt road where needed. Maintenance required for timber sales will be limited to haul routes, unless a storm event causes a need for road repair or maintenance in the vicinity of a timber sale. Graded haul routes will have the ditches and culvert catch basins cleaned where needed. Where significant, slough material will be removed from ditch lines or road surfaces and placed in stable waste areas.

Road maintenance for roads being used for timber sale access becomes the responsibility of the timber sale purchaser once sale activity has begun.

Roadside vegetation control, utilizing District personnel and equipment, will be conducted along roads with encroaching vegetation. The objective is to reduce vegetation along “right-of-ways” for improved sight distance for safety, maintaining access, and protect the investment in the transportation infrastructure.

## **Land Surveying**

Approximately 5.8 miles of property line previously surveyed will need to be reflagged. Approximately 1.3 miles of property line will need to be surveyed and established. There are 20 property corners which will need to be located and their associated bearing trees painted. This survey work will be accomplished with District personnel and equipment and/or through professional contracts.

## **Young Stand Management**

The purpose of conducting young stand management operations is to prepare for, establish, or maintain a new forest, or new forest layer, through operations such as site preparation, tree planting and protection, vegetation management, pre-commercial thinning, and pruning. Another operation often associated with, but not limited to, young stand management is invasive species control. Through the use of these operations many of the silvicultural goals and objectives of the FMP and IP are met.

Specific information regarding operations can be found in Appendix A, “Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary” table, and in the discussion, below.

Due to current budget limitations, most young stand management activities are limited to those essential to forest establishment. Accordingly, these activities are readily supported within the base budget. Alternatively, other management operations such as stocking density control (Pre-commercial Thinning), and low priority vegetation management (release), may not be fully funded.

## Site Preparation

The purpose of site preparation is to prepare areas for replanting after harvest operations or rehabilitation activities by removing or controlling the vegetative or slash cover. This allows seedlings to become established while reducing the competition with other vegetation for moisture, sunlight, and nutrients. Both chemical and mechanical (slash piling and burning) site preparation may be used on the same acreage. During this operations plan period, one or more site preparation activity will be conducted on approximately 465 acres, with approximately \$63,000 budgeted for these activities. This work includes mechanical brush and slash piling, pile burning, and chemical site preparation. Site preparation activities will be conducted in the following basins:

Big Elk Creek Basin – Six sale areas totaling 128 acres will receive a chemical site prep treatment. One of these sale areas will also have approximately 22 acres of slash piles burned that were piled in FY '16.

Luckiamute River Basin – Two sale areas will have a total of approximately 15 acres of slash mechanically piled and burned.

Marys River Basin – Five harvest areas totaling 175 acres will have a chemical site preparation application. Three other sale areas will have approximately 115 acres of machine slash piling and pile burning.

Siletz Basin – There are no site preparations activities planned in this basin in FY '17.

Upper Yaquina River Basin – One 47 acre harvest area will have a chemical site preparation application, about 22 acres of this same area will have piles burned that were piled in FY '16. Another area will have approximately 22 acres of slash burned that was piled in FY '16.

## Planting

Tree planting operations are conducted for various reasons. These include meeting Forest Practices Laws, quickly establishing a new stand of trees after timber harvesting, and increasing species diversity in the area and across the landscape. Some planting (under planting) is intended to create an additional tree layer in a partial cut stand for increased structure and diversity. Planting will also ensure future opportunities and options for the management of stands to produce desired structures across the landscape. The IP indicates that annual reforestation acreage will be between 200 and 400 acres. About 370 acres are scheduled to be planted (initial planting and interplanting) during FY 2017 at a total estimated cost of \$102,000. About 155,000 seedlings will be planted. Additional cooler storage may need to be rented in order to accommodate the number of seedlings. Annual maintenance of district cooler storage will also be done.

## **Initial Planting:**

This type of planting is conducted after a timber harvest reduces the stocking level to a degree that more trees are required on the site. Approximately 350 acres will have initial planting. Seedlings will be planted at a rate of 435 trees per acre (TPA). Initial planting will occur in the following basins:

Big Elk Creek Basin – Six clearcut harvest areas (128 acres total) will be planted. All will be planted to Douglas-fir (75-80%), western hemlock and western redcedar (15-20%) and Sitka spruce (5%).

Luckiamute River Basin – No planting will occur in this Basin during FY 2017.

Marys River Basin – Five clearcut harvest areas (totaling 175 acres) will be planted. Most will be planted to Douglas-fir (77-80%), western hemlock (10-15%), western redcedar (8-10%) and SS (1%). One unit which has some *Phellinus weirii* will be planted to Douglas-fir (55%), WH (15%) and WRC (30%).

Siletz River Basin – No planting will occur in this Basin during FY 2017.

Upper Yaquina River Basin – One 47 acre area will be planted to Douglas-fir (70%), western hemlock (15%), western redcedar (14%) and Sitka spruce (1%).

## **Underplanting:**

This type of planting is conducted after thinning in order to introduce both species diversity and an additional future layer of structure into a stand. No underplanting will occur during FY 2017.

## **Interplanting:**

This type of planting will occur on areas that were initially planted one to three years previous, but for various reasons (animal damage, disease, seedling/planting quality, etc) seedlings did not survive in sufficient numbers. It is estimated that approximately 20 acres may need interplant. A variety of tree species will be planted, depending on the site conditions and availability of stock.

## **Vegetation Management**

Release operations are conducted in established plantations to control undesirable vegetation that competes for moisture, sunlight, and nutrients. The objective is to retain preferred trees in the stand and maintain acceptable growth rates of the established stands. Vegetation management operations are also used to eradicate noxious weeds which may not actually threaten seedlings but which have the potential to spread and displace desirable vegetation. Vegetation management methods are either manual or chemical.

## **Manual Release:**

Areas of manual release are typically small areas in young plantations that are either too close to streams or private property to treat with chemicals or where target vegetation is too large to be effectively treated with chemicals. This type of release will keep preferred trees from being overtopped by competing vegetation. About 100 acres of manual release is forecast to be accomplished at an estimated cost of \$27,000. This work will be done by the Mill Creek inmate crew. The work could occur in any of the management basins.

## **Chemical Release:**

These operations vary from aerial applications targeting multiple weed species growing over entire young plantations to ground based backpack applications targeting individual undesirable plants. Approximately 395 acres of both ground-based and aerial chemical vegetation management is forecast for this period with an approximate cost of \$32,000. This work will occur in the following basins:

Big Elk Creek Basin – Four plantations (108 acres) are planned for an aerial release herbicide application.

Luckiamute River Basin – No chemical release is planned to occur in this Basin during FY '17.

Marys River Basin – Three plantations (totaling 69 acres) will likely receive an aerial herbicide release application.

Siletz River Basin – Two plantations will likely receive an aerial release herbicide application (72 acres).

Upper Yaquina River Basin – Three plantation (124 acres) are planned for an aerial release herbicide application.

## **Noxious Weeds**

Sites will be evaluated for treatment as they are identified. Roughly 20 acres of chemical and manual vegetation treatment targeting noxious weeds is forecast for FY 2017. This acreage does not include roadside management. These operations are typically on small acreage and will target such noxious weeds as Scotch broom, false brome, and spotted knapweed. The treatment areas will be scattered through most all of our management basins.

## **Tree Protection**

Tree protection operations are conducted to reduce, control, or mitigate animal damage on desired trees in the stands. These operations are intended to maintain stocking and growth rates at acceptable levels. The District uses three methods to provide protection to trees: installing tubes over seedlings, applying a big game repellent to the seedling, or trapping animals (mountain beaver).

### **Tubing:**

On this District, tubing has proven effective in most cases in keeping animal browse on cedar to an acceptable level. Tubes will be installed on all of the approximately 15,000 western redcedar planted during this period. The work will be done by the Mill Creek inmate crew. Western redcedar will be planted on portions of all of the areas designated for initial planting during this period.

### **Big Game Repellent (BGR):**

BGR (Plantskydd) has been applied from time to time on western redcedar in the past and more recently to western hemlock and Douglas-fir on a trial basis. It appears to have helped prevent near total removal of western hemlock by big game species in problem areas. Plantskydd will likely not be applied during FY 2017 due to budget constraints.

### **Direct Control:**

Mountain beaver trapping will likely occur on all of the units that are planned for planting during this period (approximately 350 acres). Assessments will be made after the units are harvested as to the need for control work. Maintenance trapping will also occur in portions of units that were trapped previously that show continued high levels of mountain beaver damage (approximately another 50 acres). During FY 2017, this work will be done by the Mill Creek inmate crew.

## **Pre-commercial Thinning**

Pre-commercial thinning (PCT) operations are conducted on stands that are above a desired stocking level. The operations generally have several objectives including the following: 1) reduce stocking to levels which will maintain diameter growth, and to a lesser extent height growth; 2) provide an opportunity for selecting residual trees based on initial growth, form, and defect, and 3) favor particular species that are needed to improve stand composition and diversity. The IP states that annual PCT acreage will be between 200 and 800 acres. Approximately 120 acres of plantations or patchcuts would benefit from PCT during the FY 2017 AOP period. These are stands that are currently stocked with 400 or more trees/acre. In order for these stands to become financially viable commercial thinning within 10-15 years, they will need to be thinned. Any PCT conducted during this period will be done by the Mill Creek inmate crew.

The plantations needing PCT, listed below, range from 13 to 16 years old and are stocked with an average of 400 TPA of Douglas-fir and other conifer. PCT would increase the health and vigor of the stands by removing an average of 150 TPA of the smallest and/or most defective Douglas-fir trees. Most conifers other than Douglas-fir and most hardwoods would be reserved from cutting, thus maintaining the present diversity. Due to budget constraints, these stands may not be thinned at this time.

Big Elk Creek Basin – Approximately 40 acres in one plantation.

Luckiamute River Basin – Approximately 50 acres in one plantation.

Marys River Basin – None.

Siletz River Basin – None.

Upper Yaquina River Basin – Approximately 30 acres in miscellaneous spots.

## **Pruning**

The purpose of pruning is to remove limbs in order to create future high quality clear wood, or to reduce the potential for disease. The IP states that annual pruning acreage may vary between 0 and 50 acres.

### **Pruning for White Pine Blister Rust:**

Approximately 20 acres of white pine pruning may occur during FY2017. Any work done will be by inmate crews. Most work would occur in the Marys and Luckiamute Basins.

## **Recreation Management**

Current recreational activities on the District consist mostly of dispersed camping, sightseeing, hiking, hunting, and fishing. However, there are three sites that do receive some level of consistent visitor use during certain periods of the year. They are:

1. Big Elk Creek. This area has two primitive campsites along Big Elk Creek that have all weather access. These campsites are consistently used during summer weekends and through much of the hunting seasons.
2. Baber Meadows. The Mt. Baber ATV Club uses Baber Meadows as an ATV staging/riding area. This staging area provides access to a 32.6 mile trail loop on ODF and private land. The club schedules some organized riding events but riders use the trail system at other times of the year, as well. The other staging area at Salmon Creek

provides closer access to the Mt. Baber trail system for those riders coming from the Willamette Valley.

3. Black Rock. A mountain bike club, the Black Rock Mountain Bike Association (BRMBA), has created and maintains about 9.5 miles of trails in the eastern portion of ODF ownership at Black Rock. The club schedules some organized riding events but riders use the trail system at all times of the year, as well.

Recreation planning and management are covered in the 2012 IP in detail. Current economic and funding constraints do not allow for development of additional recreation infrastructure. However, long term vision and goals (given improved economic conditions) are outlined in the IP.

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

The facilities at Baber Meadows include a restroom, an informational kiosk, an adjacent kid's track, all weather access roads to camping and staging areas, nine surfaced trailer sites with picnic tables and fire rings, and two primitive camp sites. There is also an overflow parking area to the west of the meadows. The district pays for the pumping of the pit toilet. The facilities at the Salmon Creek Staging Area consist of a surfaced parking lot and an informational kiosk.

Facilities at Black Rock include a small parking area and an informational kiosk.

### **Trails**

The 32.6 mile ATV trail loop on ODF and private forest land will be maintained throughout the year by the Mt. Baber ATV club members. About 4.2 miles of trail system is on State land.

The 9.5 mile mountain bike trail system in the Black Rock area will be maintained throughout the year by the Black Rock Mountain Bike Association.

### **Management Activities**

The Mt. Baber ATV club generally hold a number of organized riding events during the fiscal year. Riders use the staging areas and trails throughout the year unless restrictions are in place that would temporarily curtail activities (i.e. fire season restrictions, active timber sales, etc.).

The Black Rock Mountain Bike Association (BRMBA) may have some organized riding events along with scheduled "work party" events. The trail system is used continuously throughout the year. BRMBA has been exploring options to find better access to the mountain bike trail system that would alleviate the need to travel through Camp Tapawingo, a private church camp, where the current access is. The District may provide some

administrative support to help in this exploration of new access to State Forest ownership in conjunction with BRMBA.

## **Land Exchange**

There are currently no land exchanges planned, however assessment and evaluation of other potential land exchanges will be on going throughout the year. The district's "Land Acquisition and Exchange Plan" was updated in FY 2013.

## **Other Integrated Forest Management Operations**

### **Aquatic and Riparian Resources**

Stream restoration is a Forest Management Plan aquatic and riparian strategy for maintaining and improving aquatic functions. Within the West Oregon District Implementation plan, in the Aquatic Resources section, it is stated as a goal that the district will implement restoration projects to improve aquatic habitat, riparian function, and water quality where appropriate and feasible. Another goal in the IP is to implement 0-2 opportunistic projects per year if resources and partners are available. To work towards this goal in this AOP, there are three potential stream restoration projects being considered for the primary timber sales. One restoration project is wood placement within the Hot Plunkett, A1 timber sale, in a portion of an unnamed Type F stream that feeds into Cline Creek. Another wood placement project would be in Salmon Creek and may be planned with the Half Pipe timber sale. The last one is associated with the Aire Apparent timber sale placing wood in Wolf Creek. The District may provide logs for placement in each selected stream to improve juvenile fish habitat. An ODF&W fish biologist will design and administer these projects.

### **Minor Forest Products**

#### **District Firewood Cutting Program**

West Oregon District typically issues between 50 and 90 personal use firewood cutting permits each fiscal year, producing an estimated revenue through administrative fees of \$1,000 to \$1,800. In addition, the District issues between 5 to 10 commercial firewood permits with an estimated revenue of \$500 to \$1,000. This represents a significant workload, in the fall through spring months, for the forester in charge of permits. No personal use firewood permits are issued during closed fire season.

#### **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, 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.

State Forests are managed for multiple benefits, and snags, downed wood and stumps are important habitat components under our Forest Management Plan. Permittees should follow the permit instructions, review the permit and district maps, and consult with ODF personnel to ensure they remain on State Forests land. Property lines are frequently unmarked and ODF firewood permits are 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.

Permit Fee:

The permit fee is \$20 for two cords of firewood and is not transferrable to another party.

When:

By phoning the Philomath office, the public may have their names put on a permit list opened each year on October 1<sup>st</sup> and again on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Persons will be notified, in order, when permits become available. Occasionally, if there is no wood forecast to be available during one of these periods, the district may opt not to maintain a list until the next period. Permits will be issued for a 2 week period, during the months outside of fire season. Fire season is generally from July 1<sup>st</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>, but actual dates can vary dramatically from year to year..

Who:

A limited number of personal firewood cutting permits will be issued to the public, on a first on the permit list-first served basis, with a limit of 2 permits per individual or household within a 12 month period. The permit cannot be used to sell firewood to another party. Firewood cutting permits will be sold and administered to public employees under the same processes used by the public. Oregon Department of Forestry does not guarantee the quality or availability of wood when issuing firewood cutting permits, as such, permit fees will not be refunded. 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:

Collected permit fees will be used to help reimburse administration of the firewood cutting program. Enforcement of firewood cutting permits will be accomplished by contracted law enforcement officers and following the Firewood Cutting Guidance described in 12.2.G1.2.2. Additional firewood cutting permit requirements and guidelines are provided with the permit.

Commercial Firewood Permits:

In areas behind locked gates or on unsurfaced road systems only open during dry weather, a limited number of commercial permits may be offered. The district maintains an on-going list of interested parties. Permits are sold for \$100 and the permittee is allowed up to 10 cords per permit. Permits are for a one-month time period. This wood may be sold by the permittee and therefore requires that the permittee fill out a Notification of Operations which is filed with the Oregon Department of Forestry and results in notification to the Department of Revenue. Permittee must fill out this notification regardless of whether they intend to sell the firewood or not.

**Miscellaneous Forest Products**

The District typically issues between 30 and 50 miscellaneous forest product permits for salal, vinemaple, forest plants, chanterelle mushrooms and Oregon grape each fiscal year. Permits are sold for \$100 per permittee and may have more than one permittee per permit. The estimated revenue from these permits is \$6,000 to \$9,000 a year.

**Planning (and Information Systems)**

**Stand Level Inventory and Other Vegetation Inventories**

There are approximately 25 stands which are planned for Stand Level Inventory in FY 2017.

Stocking surveys of two, six, and thirteen-fifteen year old plantations will continue. Approximately 1,000 acres are planned for surveying by district personnel.

**Fish and Wildlife Surveys**

There are numerous streams identified for fish presence surveys within or adjacent to all operation areas. The ODF&W fish biologists will be contacted for their assistance in conducting fish presence surveys for those streams currently classified as unknown associated with the harvest operations. If they are not available to provide assistance then District personnel will work with ODF Aquatic Specialist in utilizing the physical characteristic survey protocol to determine stream classification.

Surveys for northern spotted owls will be conducted for eight operations. Surveys for marbled murrelets will be conducted for twelve operations.

Table 3. Summary of Surveys for Threatened and Endangered Species

Operation	Species <sup>1</sup>	Survey Years <sup>2</sup>	Species <sub>1</sub>	Survey Years <sup>2</sup>	BA <sup>3</sup> Required	Special Considerations
Hot Plunkett	<b>MM</b>	14&15	<b>NSO</b>	14,15&16	No	
Half Pipe	<b>MM</b>	14&15	<b>NSO</b>	14,15&16	Yes	Tailholding in MMMA
Goat Shot	<b>MM</b>	14&15	<b>NSO</b>	14,15&16	No	
Powerline Thin	<b>MM</b>	14&15	<b>NSO</b>	Not required	No	
Aire Apparent		14&15		14,15&16	No	
Little Elk Thin	<b>MM</b>	14&15	<b>NSO</b>	Not required	Yes	Harvest operation in non-habitat buffer of MMMA
Rudder Road	<b>MM</b>	14&15	<b>NSO</b>	13,14,15 &16	No	
Easter Gonner (Alt.)	<b>MM</b>	13,14,15&16	<b>NSO</b>	13,14,15 &16	No	
Camp Adeer (Alt.)	<b>MM</b>	15&16	<b>NSO</b>	15&16	No	
Cabin Fever (Alt.)	<b>MM</b>	15&16	<b>NSO</b>	Not required	Yes	Harvest operation in non-habitat buffer of MMMA
Sweet Lass (Alt.)	<b>MM</b>	Not required	<b>NSO</b>	Not required	Yes	Harvest operation in NSO circle
Lost Steere (Alt.)	<b>MM</b>	15&16	<b>NSO</b>	15,16&17	No	
Thin Women (Alt.)	<b>MM</b>	13,14&15	<b>NSO</b>	Not required	Yes	Harvest operation in non-habitat buffer of MMMA
Little Thin on the Prairie (Alt.)	<b>MM</b>	Not required	<b>NSO</b>	Not required	Yes	Harvest operation in non-habitat buffer of MMMA

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Years that surveys have been completed or are planned.

<sup>3</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**

The following research and monitoring projects are on-going during this fiscal year, but it is not expected that any active measurements will be taken during the year. Any monitoring/measurement work will be done mainly by the cooperators:

1. Vegetation and wildlife response to gaps in young stands (Peuttman/OSU)
2. Growing stock study of thinned stands at Black Rock (McGuire/OSU)
3. Effects of sulfur applications on Swiss needle cast infected Douglas-fir (Kanaskie/OSU)
4. Effects of thinning in Swiss needle cast infected Douglas-fir stands (Mainwaring/OSU)

## **Other Planning Operations**

During FY 2017, the District will be involved in the following planning activities:

1. FY 2018 AOP - This plan will cover all management operations on State Forest lands on the District for FY 2017, which begins July 1, 2017 and ends June 30, 2018.
2. Collecting additional data to enhance road inventory information.

# **Public Information and Education**

## **Forestry Education**

The District maintains supporting information on the Implementation Plan, Forest Land Management Classification System, and Annual Operations Plans for public review. In addition, District personnel will attempt to participate in watershed council meetings, outdoor school presentations, OSU College of Forestry class presentations, ATV club meetings, and other public events as the opportunity arises and time permits. The District will continue to meet with concerned citizens or groups when they have questions or as needed. Participation in all of these activities will be driven by staffing and workload limitations.

# **Administration**

There are thirteen positions on the West Oregon District that are fully or partially funded for the management of State Forest lands. The District Forester, Assistant District Forester and the administrative support staff, are partially funded. These positions are divided into two functional groups: Administration and State Forests (See Figure 1).

Administration is composed of the District Forester, Assistant District Forester, Office Manager and two Office Specialists. The District Forester and Assistant District Forester provide the following functions for the management of State Forest lands on the District: policy direction; budgeting; coordination between units and programs; and oversight to the field units. The Office Specialists provide administrative support for the management of State Forest lands. They are responsible for initial public contact, distribution and filing of documents, and providing assistance at timber sale auctions. They are also responsible for assisting with permits for firewood cutting and special forest products harvesting.

The State Forests Unit consists of six permanent positions and two seasonal positions. The unit is responsible for reforestation and young stand management; timber sale preparation and administration; forest planning; geographic systems coordination; and road maintenance.

The State Forests Unit Supervisor coordinates all of the activities in the unit. The duties include employee supervision, reforestation and young stand management planning and oversight, timber sale contract review and approval, timber sale planning, and assuring that the property lines of all state forest land on the District are established and maintained. The Unit Supervisor prepares the annual operations plans for the District's state forest lands and is active in implementation of the District's IP and Northwest Oregon State FMP. The Unit Supervisor is also responsible for all recreation management on state forest lands.

Reforestation and young stand management is accomplished by a Timber Sale Prep/Reforestation Forester and two seasonal Forest Management Technicians. They are responsible for all activities conducted in forest plantations from the time harvesting is completed through reforestation and stand establishment. Their activities include site preparation, tree planting, vegetation management, pruning, tree improvement, and pre-commercial thinning. In addition, the NRS 1 position is responsible for invasive species surveying, monitoring and treatment.

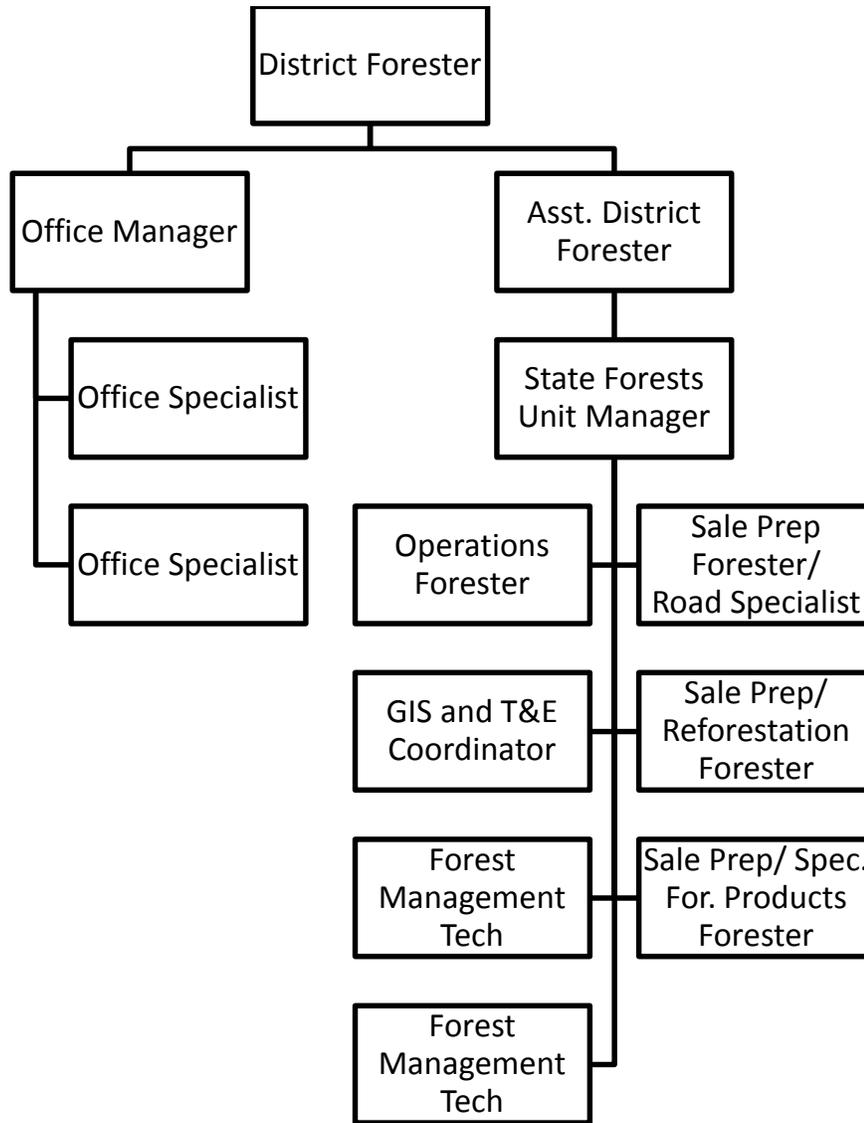
The GIS Coordinator is also the Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinator.

The timber sale preparation and administration is accomplished with a staff of one Operations Forester and three Sale Preparation Foresters (one of which is also the Reforestation Forester). Their responsibilities cover all aspects of timber harvesting; including unit layout, cruising, appraisal, contract preparation, and contract administration. They also ensure that current standards for retention of snags, green trees, and down wood are met and that riparian management strategies are correctly applied to the harvest

units. They also assist with the layout and design of new roads. One Sale Preparation Forester is also a Road Specialist who is responsible for securing access to all state forest lands. One Sale Preparation Forester is also responsible for managing the cutting of firewood and sale of miscellaneous forest products, such as salal and Oregon grape.

The portion of road maintenance not associated with timber sale contracts is accomplished through a service contract and a Sale Preparation Forester who holds a Pesticide Applicator License for vegetation control along forest roads.

West Oregon District  
 State Forest Management Organization  
 Figure 1



All personnel involved with the management of state forest lands spend some portion of their time in public information and education, generally one to three days per year. The District Forester, Assistant District Forester, State Forests Unit Forester spend considerably more time on public information and education, because of their involvement with the Northwest Oregon State FMP.

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# APPENDIXES

## **A. Summary Tables**

Timber Harvest Operations – Fiscal Summary  
Timber Harvest Operations – Forest Resource Summary  
Timber Harvest Operations – Forest Structure Summary  
Forest Roads Management Fiscal Summary  
Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary  
Recreation Management Summary

## **B. Maps**

Vicinity Map (showing all Commercial Operations) relative to the District ownership.

## **C. Public and Other Agencies Involvement**

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 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**

Available from the district upon request.

## **F. Landscape Design – Minor Modification**

This appendix describes the proposed minor modification to the Landscape Design.

## Appendix A - Summary Tables

### TIMBER HARVEST OPERATIONS - FINANCIAL SUMMARY

District: West Oregon

Fiscal Year: 2017

Date: 09/12/2016

Primary Operation	Fund %		County	Sale Quarter	Net Acres		Volume (MMBF)			Value		
	BOF	CSL			Partial Cut	Clear-cut	Conifer	Hardwoods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net
Hot Plunkett	100%	0%	Lincoln	1	0	119	3.2	0.6	3.8	\$1,473,425	\$45,000	\$1,428,425
Half Pipe	100%	0%	Lincoln	2	0	45	1.9	0.3	2.2	\$779,625	\$41,000	\$738,625
Cabin Fever	100%	0%	Lincoln	2	17	40	0.9	0.0	0.9	\$167,670	\$49,000	\$118,670
Goat Shot	31%	69%	Lincoln	2	0	61	1.8	0.2	2.0	\$822,300	\$51,000	\$771,300
Sweet Lass	100%	0%	Benton	3	0	38	1.0	0.0	1.0	\$285,000	\$52,000	\$233,000
Aire Apparent	100%	0%	Lincoln	3	189	0	1.2	0.0	1.2	\$153,140	\$38,000	\$115,140
Easter Gonner	100%	0%	Benton	4	0	83	1.6	0.1	1.7	\$525,400	\$27,000	\$498,400

<b>Total:</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>4,206,560</b>	<b>303,000</b>	<b>\$3,903,560</b>
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#### Alternate Operations

Rudder Road	100%	0%	Polk	Alt	0	44	1.1	0.1	1.2	\$485,100	\$61,000	\$424,100
Camp Adeer	100%	0%	Lincoln	Alt	0	27	0.9	0.0	0.9	\$361,125	\$47,000	\$314,125
Lost Steere	0%	100%	Linc/Polk	Alt	0	49	1.4	0.1	1.5	\$524,050	\$209,000	\$315,050
Thin Women	54%	46%	Polk	Alt	145	0	0.9	0.0	0.9	\$111,410	\$40,000	\$71,410
Little Thin on the Prairie	0%	100%	Lincoln	Alt	129	0	0.8	0.0	0.8	\$102,830	\$33,000	\$69,830
Powerline Thin	69%	31%	Lincoln	Alt	256	0	1.8	0.0	1.8	\$231,920	\$50,000	\$181,920
Little Elk Thin	86%	14%	Lincoln	Alt	262	0	1.4	0.0	1.4	\$178,750	\$37,000	\$141,750

## Appendix A - Summary Tables

### PRIMARY HARVEST OPERATIONS - FOREST RESOURCE SUMMARY

District: West Oregon

Fiscal Year: 2017

Date: 01/20/2016

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 <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	Within 1/4 mile of MIMA	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	
Half Pipe			X						X				X	X		X	X				
Goat Shot		X		X	X				X					X							
Hot Plunkett		X		X	X									X		X					Parent Trees
Little Elk Thin			X		X		X	X					X	X		X	X	X	X		Permanent plot (Area 2) & Phellinus
Aire Apparent							X		X	X						X					
Powerline Thin							X							X			X				Permanent plot (Area 2)
Rudder Road								X		X				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 inconsultation 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.

## Appendix A - Summary Tables

### 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	Within 1/4 mile of MMMA	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	
Easter Gonner		X	X											X			X	X		Permanent plot (Area 1) & Phellinus	
Camp Adeer									X					X			X				
Cabin Fever		X								X			X	X							Permanent plot (Area 2) & Phellinus
Sweet Lass		X	X									X					X		X		
Lost Steere			X				X			X			X	X							
Thin Women		X	X				X			X			X	X							Sulfur trial plots & pruned trees
Little Thin on the Prairie		X			X		X		X				X	X		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 inconsultation 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.

## Appendix A - Summary Tables

### TIMBER HARVEST OPERATIONS - FOREST STRUCTURE SUMMARY

#### Primary Operations

**District:** West Oregon

**Fiscal Year** 2017

**Date:** 03/24/2016

Current Structure	
	Total
REG	0
CSC	530
UDS	397
LYR	49
OFS	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>976</b>

Post Harvest Structure <sup>1</sup>				
REG	CSC	UDS	LYR	OFS
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	530	0	0
220	0	177	0	0
49	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
<b>269</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Desired Future Condition <sup>2</sup>		
GEN	LYR	OFS
0	0	0
521	9	0
385	12	0
1	5	43
0	0	0
<b>907</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>43</b>

1. Expected structure 5 - 10 years after FY 2017 operations are completed.

2. This table reflects the landscape design after the modifications described in the Forest Management Operations section have been approved.



## Appendix A - Summary Tables

### REFORESTATION AND YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District: West Oregon

Fiscal Year: 2017

Date: 02/11/2016

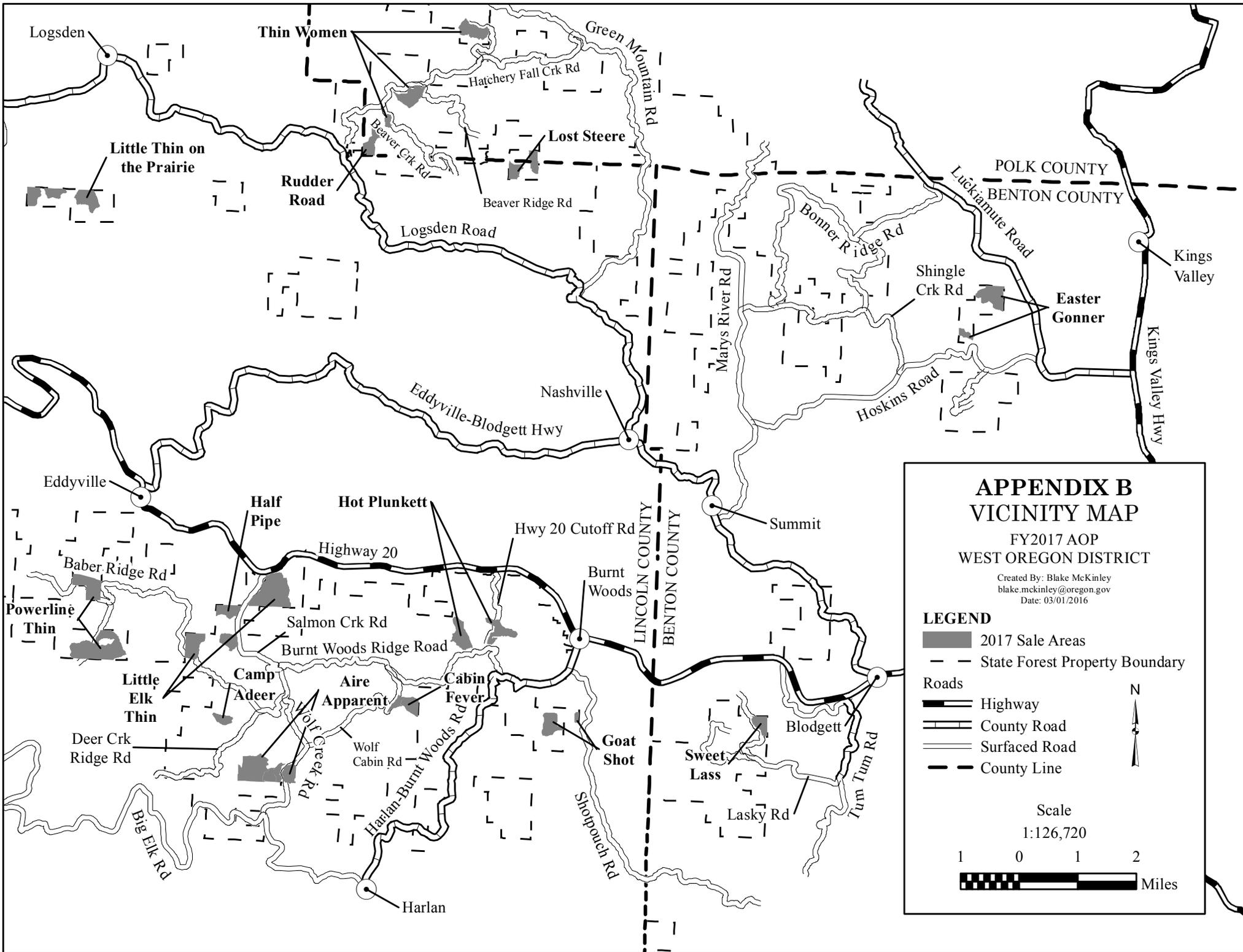
ODF Funded Activities Management Activity	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District	
	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	BOF Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	CSL Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost
Initial Planting*	285	\$285.00	\$81,225.00	65	\$295.00	\$19,175.00	350	\$100,400.00
Interplanting*	16	\$80.00	\$1,280.00	4	\$80.00	\$320.00	20	\$1,600.00
Underplanting*	0	\$200.00	\$0.00	0	\$200.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection-Barriers	285	\$65.00	\$18,525.00	65	\$65.00	\$4,225.00	350	\$22,750.00
Tree Protection-Direct Control	325	\$55.00	\$17,875.00	75	\$55.00	\$4,125.00	400	\$22,000.00
Site Prep-Chemical- Aerial	270	\$60.00	\$16,200.00	65	\$60.00	\$3,900.00	335	\$20,100.00
Site Prep-Chemical- Hand **	15	\$210.00	\$3,150.00	0	\$225.00	\$0.00	15	\$3,150.00
Site Prep -Slash Burning **	175	\$70.00	\$12,250.00	21	\$70.00	\$1,470.00	196	\$13,720.00
Site Prep -Mechanical	130	\$200.00	\$26,000.00	0	\$200.00	\$0.00	130	\$26,000.00
Fertilization	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Noxious weeds	16	\$115.00	\$1,840.00	4	\$115.00	\$460.00	20	\$2,300.00
Release-Chemical- Aerial	275	\$80.00	\$22,000.00	98	\$80.00	\$7,840.00	373	\$29,840.00
Release,-Chemical-Hand **	16	\$125.00	\$2,000.00	4	\$125.00	\$500.00	20	\$2,500.00
Release-Mechanical-Hand **	80	\$270.00	\$21,600.00	20	\$270.00	\$5,400.00	100	\$27,000.00
Precommercial Thinning**	115	\$150.00	\$17,250.00	5	\$150.00	\$750.00	120	\$18,000.00
Pruning (for disease control only)	0	\$200.00	\$0.00	0	\$200.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Stocking Surveys	800	\$5.00	\$4,000.00	200	\$5.00	\$1,000.00	1,000	\$5,000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,803</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$245,195.00</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$49,165.00</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>\$294,360.00</b>

\*Planting costs include seed, seedlings, hauling, storage and labor.

\*\* Mill Creek Inmate Crew

Grant Funded Activities Management Activity	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District		Funding
	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	





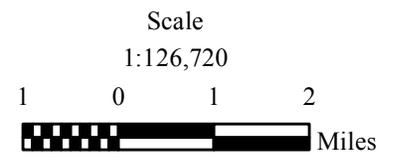
## APPENDIX B VICINITY MAP

FY2017 AOP  
WEST OREGON DISTRICT

Created By: Blake McKinley  
blake.mckinley@oregon.gov  
Date: 03/01/2016

### LEGEND

-  2017 Sale Areas
-  State Forest Property Boundary
- Roads**
-  Highway
-  County Road
-  Surfaced Road
-  County Line



## **APPENDIX C**

### **CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN**

This appendix is used to report written comments received from other governmental agencies regarding the activities described in this draft plan and the district's response or resolution of those comments.

- No written comments from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have been received, however, verbal comments from field and office reviews were considered while preparing this AOP.
- Archaeologists from (ODOT) have reviewed the proposed timber harvests and road construction projects to review potential impacts to cultural resources. Two archaeological resources were identified during this review.

The following areas (listed by the historic activity) were identified as known or potential cultural resource sites:

- Archaeological resource sites (2): Little Elk Thin, Area 1. These sites are located across Highway 20 from the timber sale area. There is no potential for the operation to impact these sites, so no follow up recommended by ODOT.
- Potential Adjacent Trail: Easter Gonner, Area 2. During sale preparation, Sale Prep forester will explore the project area for trail remains.
- The District's Draft AOP was sent to representatives from both the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde with an invitation to provide comments. No comments were received.
- Biological Assessments for two primary operations (Half Pipe and Little Elk Thin) and one alternate operation (Little Thin on the Prairie) were sent to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for review last year and resulted in a low risk of incidental take. Biological Assessments for three alternate operations (Sweet Lass, Cabin Fever and Thin Woman) were sent to USFWS for review this year. The District received a response from USFWS stating that all three sales were of low risk of incidental take to T&E species. The USFWS suggested that post-harvest assessments be made on Cabin Fever and Thin Woman to validate harvest prescriptions and canopy retention and that any variances affecting MaMu habitat quantity or quality be reported back to them for consultation. See attached letter from the USFWS. Post-harvest inventory will be done on the thinned units and evaluated to see if USFWS will need to be consulted.



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office

2600 SE 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100

Portland, Oregon 97266

Phone: (503) 231-6179 FAX: (503) 231-6195

Reply To: 8503.2002(16)  
TS Number: 16-425

Brian Pew  
State Forests Deputy Division Chief  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
State Forester's Office  
2600 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310-1336

JUN 15 2016

Dear Mr. Pew:

This responds to your April 14, 2016, letter requesting review of 11 timber sales proposed to be included in the Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Operations Plans. The following eight proposed timber sales have been identified as having potential impacts to the federally-listed northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)(spotted owl): Moving Music, Higher Rock, Firebreak 11, Little Mac, Southwest Kerby, Third Rock, Sweet Lass, and By Gally. The three proposed timber sales that may have potential impacts to the federally-listed marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) are Rector Quad, Cabin Fever, and Thin Women. Attached with your letter were the pre-operations reports and preliminary biological assessments for the proposed timber sales, portions of which are briefly summarized below. Our comments are based upon the information provided.

## Spotted Owl related timber sales

The Moving Music timber sale in the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Forest Grove District is not within a known spotted owl home range, but the associated 530 feet of road construction will impact a total of 0.7 acres of suitable habitat 1.45 miles from the South Fork Rock Creek spotted owl activity center. Due to the distance from the activity center, and the small amount of habitat removal, we consider this timber sale to have a low risk of incidental take of spotted owls.

The Higher Rock timber sale in the North Cascade District is a 265 acre partial cut with approximately 15 acres within the 1.2 mile Under Rock spotted owl activity circle. The stand averages 64 years old and primarily consists of Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and red alder with an average dbh of 17 inches. The stand would be thinned from the current 120, down to 100 trees per acre with the intent to promote older forest structure. Currently, about 2,841 acres of state-managed lands within 1.2 miles of the activity center are considered suitable spotted owl habitat. We previously consulted on the 1100 Tom timber sale that would thin about 153 acres within this 1.2 mile radius and concluded that it would have a low risk of incidental take of spotted owls. With the thinning of an additional 15 acres, there would still be greater than 40 percent habitat remaining within the activity circle. We consider this timber sale to have a low risk of incidental take of spotted owls.

The Firebreak 11 road construction project in the Tillamook District consists of 0.16 miles of new road construction about one mile from the Schmitz Ridge spotted owl activity center that will remove approximately 0.7 acres of low quality spotted owl foraging habitat. ODF estimates that over 90 percent of the owl site contains suitable habitat. Based upon the existing amount of habitat, the distance from the activity center, and the amount and quality of habitat to be removed, we consider the Firebreak 11 road construction project to have a low risk of incidental take of spotted owls.

The proposed Little Mac timber sale is located in the Southwest District and is within the home range of the Smoky Mt., West McCullough and Fir Point spotted owl sites. The Little Mac timber sale consists of 179 acres in six sale areas and is primarily composed of 70-94 year-old stands of Douglas-fir with scattered incense cedar, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, and madrone. Sale areas 1 and 3-6 will be partial cut that will retain about 110-115 trees per acre. Area 2 will be a clearcut harvest of 38 acres. The Little Mac timber sale will partial cut 26 acres within the 0.7 mile circle, and cut 154 acres within the 1.3 mile circle of the Smoky Mt. spotted owl site. Post-harvest, 548 acres (56 percent) and 1,740 acres (51 percent) will remain in the 0.7 mile and 1.3 mile circles. This timber sale will partial cut 28 acres within the 0.7 mile circle, and cut 173 acres within the 1.3 mile circle of the West McCullough spotted owl site. Post-harvest, 545 acres (55 percent) and 1,856 acres (55 percent) will remain in the 0.7 mile and 1.3 mile circles. This timber sale will also cut 54 acres 1.1 miles from the Fir Point spotted owl activity center. Post-harvest, 1,821 acres (54 percent) will remain within the 1.3 mile circle. We consider this timber sale to have a low risk of incidental take of the Smoky Mt., West McCullough and Fir Point spotted owls because the majority of the timber sale involves a partial cut intended to retain suitable habitat elements and sufficient habitat will remain post-harvest within their respective home range radii.

The Southwest Kirby timber sale is located in the Southwest District and is within the home range of the Kerby Peak and Bare Nelson spotted owl sites. The clearcut prescription would occur within two sale areas. Area 1 consists of 13 acres that is not considered to function as spotted owl habitat due to numerous corridors and an open canopy that was a result of a previous thinning. Area 2 consists of 21 acres considered to be suitable spotted owl habitat. The sale area contains 95 year-old Douglas-fir with some incense cedar, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, madrone, manzanita, and oak species. The average dbh is 14-15 inches with 187-206 trees per acre. This timber sale will remove 21 acres within the 1.3 mile circles of the Kirby Peak and Bare Nelson spotted owl sites that will result in 2,412 acres (71 percent) and 2,708 acres (80 percent) of suitable spotted owl habitat remaining. Based upon the amount of remaining habitat, we consider the Southwest Kirby timber sale to have a low risk of incidental take of the Kerby Peak and Bare Nelson spotted owl sites.

The proposed Third Rock timber sale is located in the Southwest District consists of a partial cut of 125 acres and is within the home range of the Bear Windy, Windy Fortune, and JBL spotted owl sites. The sale area consists of 82 year-old Douglas-fir with scattered incense cedar, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, and madrone. The average dbh is 15 inches with 168 trees per acre. Post-harvest there will be about 110-115 trees per acre. This timber sale will partial cut seven acres and 27 acres within the Bear Windy and Windy Fortune 1.3 mile circles, respectively. The previously planned Rockpit 2015 timber sale will remove 46 and five acres from these same two spotted owl 1.3 mile circles. Post-harvest with both timber sales, there will be 2,234 acres (66 percent) and 2,054 acres (60 percent) suitable spotted owl habitat remaining within the Bear Windy and Windy Fortune spotted owl 1.3 mile circles, respectively. The Third Rock timber sale will also result in the partial cut of 15 acres within the 1.3 mile circle of the JBL spotted owl site that will result in 2,296 acres (68 percent) remaining. The Third Rock timber sale acres are equal or greater than 1.1 miles from the three spotted owl activity centers. Based upon the remaining acres of suitable habitat post-harvest and the relative distance from the three noted activity

centers, we consider the Third Rock timber sale to have a low risk of take of the Bear Windy, Windy Fortune, and JBL spotted owl sites.

The Sweet Lass timber sale is located in the West Oregon District and consists of a 38 acre clearcut harvest about one mile from the Lasky Creek spotted owl site center. The sale area is a 38 year-old Douglas-fir and red alder stand that was severely damaged by an ice storm in 2014 and is not considered suitable spotted owl habitat. Since this sale does not removed suitable spotted owl habitat, we consider the Sweet Lass timber sale to have a low risk of take of the Lasky Creek spotted owl site.

The By Gally timber sale is located in the Western Lane District and consists of clearcut harvest of 89 acres of 75 year-old Douglas fir with small pockets of western hemlock and big-leaf maple within the 1.5 mile circle of the Pataha Creek spotted owl site. The stand has an average dbh of 17 inches and an average 71 trees per acre and is located about 0.9 miles from the site center. An approved 2016 timber sale, Aha Pataha, will also remove 138 acres within the 1.5 mile circle. Post-harvest with both of these timber sales there will be 2,204 acres (49 percent) of suitable habitat remaining within 1.5 miles of the Pataha Creek activity center. Based upon the remaining amount of suitable spotted owl habitat post-harvest within the 1.5 mile circle, we consider the By Gally timber sale to have a low risk of incidental take of the Pataha Creek spotted owl site.

In reviewing these timber sales, we noted that there can be multiple sales that occur within a given spotted owl site or multiple over-lapping sites. While the proposed timber sales may pose a low risk of incidental take, we strongly encourage ODF to consider reducing the number of active timber sales within any given spotted owl site, especially when over-lapping sites occur. Fewer, concurrent active timber sales are less likely to result in cumulative impacts to the landscape that may discourage use of the area by spotted owls due to gross available forest cover and potential for disturbance.

#### Marbled Murrelet related timber sales

Rector Quad is a proposed timber sale associated with a road construction project in the Astoria District. Work will be performed on Lost Creek and Rector Lookout Roads which are partially located within the Niche 11 and Sweet Home Marbled Murrelet Management Areas (MMAs). Project operations will affect the buffer of the designated occupied habitat of the two MMAs. None of the trees to be removed have developed nest platform structures or provide cover to trees with platforms.

Approximately 1.4 acres of new road construction and 1.35 acres of road vacating will occur. The proposed timber sale will be conducted under several protection and avoidance measures described in the biological assessment. These include seasonal timing restrictions for harvest-related operations to avoid the breeding season, trash removal requirements, and road and landing construction restrictions. By conducting harvest activities outside of the breeding season, not removing potentially suitable marbled murrelet nest trees, and using caution to protect potential platform trees during harvest, we concur with your assessment that the proposed harvest activities associated with the Rector Road timber sale and road construction project should have a low risk of incidental take of marbled murrelets.

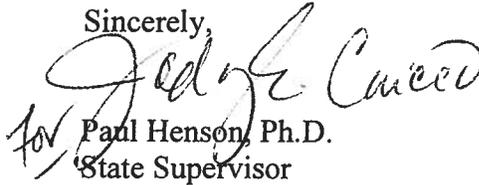
The Cabin Fever timber sale is located in the West Oregon District and consists of a modified clearcut in Area 1 and a first-entry commercial thinning in Area 2 of 17 acres. Approximately two acres of Area 2 lie within the buffer of the Wolf Creek MMMA. Current stand characteristics of Area 2 include 28 year-old trees with 225 trees per acre. Canopy cover is over 95 percent. The thinning would lower the density to about 140 trees per acre and maintain at least 60 percent canopy cover.

The Thin Women timber sale is also located in the West Oregon District and consists of a first-entry commercial thinning of young conifer stands. Sale Area 1 totals 68 acres and includes 1.2 acres and 6.7 acres located within the buffers of the Thin Woman and Beaver's Rock MMMA's, respectively. This sale area is composed of 30 year-old trees with about 207 trees per acre. The thinning would reduce the density to about 122 trees per acre and would maintain a canopy cover of at least 60 percent. Sale Area 3 totals 68 acres and includes 25.5 acres located with the buffer of the Upper Fall Creek MMMA. This sale area is composed of 27 year-old trees and the thinning would reduce the density from about 320 trees per acre to 168 trees per acre and would maintain a canopy cover of at least 60 percent.

By conducting harvest activities outside of the breeding season, not removing potentially suitable marbled murrelet habitat, using caution to protect potential platform trees when setting tailholds and guylines, and retaining canopy cover of at least 60 percent, we concur with your assessment that the proposed harvest activities associated with the Cabin Fever and Thin Women timber sales should have a low risk of incidental take of marbled murrelets. We suggest that post-harvest assessments be made to validate the harvest prescription and canopy retention targets and that any variances that may affect the quality or quantity of habitat in the MMMA be reported back to us for future consultations.

If you have any questions about this response, please contact Richard Szlemp at 503-231-6179. We appreciate your efforts to avoid negative impacts to federally-listed species such as the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelets, and look forward to continued coordination in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Henson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name and title.

for Paul Henson, Ph.D.  
State Supervisor

**APPENDIX D**  
**PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS**  
**FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN**

The Oregon Department of Forestry provided a formal 45 day public comment period for the 2017 Annual Operations Plans from April 4 to May 20, 2016.

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 West Oregon District received one comment specific to the district's 2017 AOP. See attached letter from Hampton Tree Farms.

The State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC) reviewed the West Oregon District FY 17 AOP and had no specific comments.



# HAMPTON TREE FARMS, LLC

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May 20, 2016

Attn: Mr. Tony Anderson  
Public Affairs Office  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
2600 State Street  
Salem, Oregon 97310

RE: 2017 Annual Operations Plans (AOP) for the Astoria, Forest Grove, Tillamook, North Cascade, West Oregon, and Western Lane Districts

(2017 AOP Harvest Levels: Astoria – 72.8 MMBF, Forest Grove – 56.1 MMBF, Tillamook – 47.1 MMBF, North Cascade – 20.0 MMBF, West Oregon – 13.5 MMBF, Western Lane – 7.3 MMBF, Total – 216.8 MMBF & Total Projected Net Revenue - \$62,766,717)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Hampton Tree Farms, LLC (HTF) strongly encourages the Department of Forestry (DOF) to operate at the upper end of the Implementation Plan (IP) allowable harvest levels on all Districts. For each 1 million board feet of additional timber sold, the districts could respectively produce the following additional net revenue based on projected 2017 AOP calculations: Astoria - \$321,966, Forest Grove - \$303,082, Tillamook - \$192,971, North Cascade - \$351,577, West Oregon - \$281,575, Western Lane - \$329,178. If all districts produced 1 million board feet of additional timber in FY17 (2.8% increase), the DOF would increase revenue by \$1,780,349. This increase would improve county funding by \$1,134,972 (63.75% of increase) as well as support an additional \$645,377 (36.25% of increase) of DOF costs or projects.

The DOF portion of Astoria District revenue increase would total \$116,713. This additional revenue could help fully fund the precommercial thinning that is needed as stated by the AOP or better support overall ODF staffing levels and the Alternate Forest Management Plan process.

The DOF portion of Forest Grove District revenue increase would total \$109,867. As a member of SFAC, I am acutely aware of the target shooting conundrum the district faces. Additional funding could help find a solution or at minimum an improvement of the status quo. The district is currently overwhelmed by this public use of the forest.

The DOF portion of Tillamook District revenue increase would total \$69,952. The revenue change could help support restoration of aquatic and riparian resources through the implementation of some larger scale projects instead of waiting for outside collaboration and diverse funding sources. The AOP also states that “current budget constraints limit young stand management mostly to those activities that are essential to the establishment of new stands.” This lack of investment will only further jeopardize the ability of this district to be financially self sustaining in the future.

The DOF portion of North Cascade District revenue increase would total \$127,447. Areas in need of extra revenue identified by the districts AOP include: wildlife studies, approved land exchanges, and precommercial thinning.

The DOF portion of West Oregon District revenue increase would total \$102,071. The revenue increase could support a variety of underfunded activities. This district is only performing 120 acres of precommercial thinning. The district's AOP says they are underperforming their implementation plan level by 80 acres.

The DOF portion of Western Lane District revenue increase would total \$119,327. The revenue change could help support areas lacking available staff time or projects lacking funding as mentioned in the AOP which include: vegetation management, pre-commercial thinning, and T&E species surveying.

In consideration of the current projected financial cliff and the continued delay of reinvestment in the state forests, the timing could not be more opportunistic. HTF strongly encourages the DOF to fully support their financial success and stability. Any incremental harvest increase will provide more revenue and help support the future success and existence of the DOF. The DOF has the ability through increased harvest levels that will not jeopardize sustainable future harvests to fully fund their own operations. Underperforming on implementation plan investment levels on state forestland management can be at minimum partially remedied by operating at even slightly higher harvest levels.

It is troubling to me as a professional forester, State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC) member, and citizen of this state to see how our state forests have been under utilized in regard to: supporting local industry and jobs, managing a renewable sustainable building material source, improving county revenues, sufficiently funding research and monitoring, and self funding management.

The time to act is now.

Sincerely,  
HAMPTON TREE FARMS, LLC



Paul A. Lulay  
Forester

cc: Doug Cooper, Vice President  
Steven J. Zika, CEO  
Doug Decker, State Forester  
Tom Imeson, Chair – Board of Forestry