



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

COOS DISTRICT 2018 ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

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COOS DISTRICT

2018 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Operations Plan (AOP) covers the state forestlands currently managed by the Coos District for the fiscal year 2018, which runs from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. This plan describes how the activities and projects planned will achieve the goals and objectives of the 2011 Elliott State Forest Management Plan (FMP) and the Coos District Implementation Plan (IP). Refer to these documents for details on strategies. These activities include the following integrated forest management operations: road maintenance; reforestation and young stand management.

This summary document will give an overview of the planned activities, and includes tables giving a number of details including acres and cost estimates of planned reforestation and young growth management operations. A public involvement summary (Appendix D) has been added to the final plan.

The current FMP and IP were approved for implementation on January 1, 2012. This FMP describes the resource management concepts and strategies and incorporates take avoidance strategies. The IP describes specific descriptions of each basin and provides the harvest and silvicultural goals for the 10 year period.

In fiscal year 2018, Coos Office will manage 11,303 acres of state forestland scattered between the California border in the south, up to the South Slough Estuary on the west, adjacent to Winchester Bay to the northwest, and to about Winston and Elkton on the east. About 21% of these lands are Common School Forest Lands (CSFL) owned by the State Land Board and managed for them and the Board's administrative agency - the Department of State Lands - by ODF. All revenue from CSFL goes to the Common School Fund and ODF is reimbursed from the Fund for management expenses. About 79% of the lands are Board of Forestry lands from which two-thirds of the revenue from timber harvest is distributed to the county where the land is located, with the remaining one-third going to ODF for management expenses.

The Coos District has been an independent, fully functioning district of the Oregon Department of Forestry since 1955, when ODF began active management of the Elliott State Forest. After June 30, 2017, ODF will no longer have any management oversight or responsibility of the approximately 82,500 Common School Land acres within the Elliott. These lands will have management oversight by the Department of State Lands or contractor while a new owner for

the lands is finalized. Beginning on July 1, 2017, the Coos District will become the Coos Unit of the West Lane District, headquartered in Veneta, Oregon. Beginning on this date which lines up with the AOP year, planning and on the ground activities will be centered in this location. No State Forest staff will be on site in Coos Bay to deal with day to day forest management activities but adequate staff will be stationed in Veneta to effectively manage these lands.

The Department of State Lands is currently leading the Elliott Ownership Transfer Opportunity. This project is intended to transfer ownership of the Common School Lands within the Elliott State Forest to a new owner by the end of calendar year 2017 or 2018. Regardless of the status of the project, ODF will not manage the CSL within the Elliott as of July 1, 2017, and thus no activities are planned in this AOP. For more information about the Elliott Ownership Transfer Project, see the dedicated DSL website: http://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Common_School_Fund_Property/Pages/Elliott-Opportunity---Project.aspx

Table 1 compares the proposed acres by harvest type¹ in this AOP to the harvest acre ranges specified in the IP.

Table 1. Annual Operations Plan objectives compared to annual estimated silvicultural activities identified in the Coos District IP. All values are net acres.

Silvicultural Activity	Elliott FMP & IP	2018 AOP
	Annual estimate	
Partial Cut Harvest ¹ – Primary	0 - 500	0
Regeneration Harvest ¹ - Primary	700 – 1000	0
Partial Cut Harvest – Alternate	0 - 500	0
Regeneration Harvest - Alternate	700 – 1000	0

This annual operations plan includes activities that take place “on the ground” within the fiscal year. Additional activities related to projects planned in prior AOP’s may also occur “on the ground” within FY18.

INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Timber Harvest Operations

There are no primary or alternate harvest operations planned in FY 18

¹ 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).

Forest Health

ODF's primary long-range plan to deal with Swiss needle cast (SNC) and unknown future forest health problems is to plant a greater diversity of species. ODF is a member of the SNC Cooperative, which is looking for additional ways to control this disease. In addition, Douglas-fir resistance to SNC is being tested by the South Central Coast Tree Improvement Cooperative. Remaining lands in Coos District are a member of this cooperative.

The Port-Orford-cedar root disease, caused by *Phytophthora lateralis*, threatens Port-Orford-cedar and, to some extent, Pacific yew in Southwest Oregon and northern California. Port-Orford-cedar occurs in some of the scattered tracts south of the Elliott's main block, but it has not been documented on the Elliott's main block. The 1993 survey for black stain root disease did not find any Port-Orford-cedar in the areas surveyed. Pacific yew does occur as scattered individuals on the Elliott.

Sudden Oak Death has not been identified in the Elliott. Locations in Oregon where it has been identified have been quarantined by the Oregon Department of Agriculture to control its spread. ODF, in cooperation with the USFS, conducts annual statewide aerial surveys to identify areas with insect and disease problems, including Sudden Oak Death.

Forest Roads Management

No road construction, improvement, or closures are planned in FY18.

Road Maintenance

The State Forest program based in Veneta will maintain an average of 55 miles of roads on remaining BOF and CSL lands in the former Coos District. Road maintenance is accomplished by a combination of a road maintenance contractor and project work associated with timber sales. The focus of road maintenance activities will be to prevent resource damage and ensure compliance with the Forest Practices Act. Road maintenance activities that may occur include grading road surfaces to maintain a smooth, stable running surface and to retain the original surface drainage. Surfacing material may be added or replaced as necessary on road segments that experience a breakdown or loss of surface material. Culverts, catch basins and ditches will be cleaned as necessary to ensure proper drainage. Worn out, damaged or undersized drainage structures will be replaced as necessary to prevent resource damage. Cut and fill slopes will be monitored for any changes that could result in damage. Problems most often encountered include raveling, erosion and slumping. Slides in roadbeds will be removed and old sidecast material will be pulled back from the road shoulder where slumping or tension cracks occur. Roadside vegetation control measures may be taken to improve visibility, drainage and slope stability.

Young Stand Management

Total expenditures of young stand management for the 2018 AOP is estimated to be \$10,005. The breakdown of individual activities is located in the Reforestation and Young Stand Management Report (Appendix B, Table 7). Planned operations are designed to be in compliance with the ESF Management Plan, Implementation Plan, and state and federal laws. Herbicides are applied in compliance with the label and the rules of the Forest Practice Act.

Site Preparation

Chemical site preparation on 19 acres is planned for a total cost of \$2,025. This application may be accomplished as aerial application or ground based, depending on available contractors at the time of application. The goal of site preparation projects is to reduce vegetative competition and minimize tree seedling mortality during the first five years after planting. Units are typically site-prep sprayed once during the rotation length of the stand (i.e. 80 years).

Planting

Initial planting is planned on 19 acres for a cost of \$7,220. The density and species mix will vary through time to meet the goals for the stand. The stock type will vary to provide the best balance of vigorous cost-effective stock. Twenty to forty percent of seedlings planted will be minor species, primarily hemlock and western red-cedar, to provide for diverse habitat and reduce the effects of Swiss needle cast and other diseases. Planting costs include all costs including seedlings.

Tree Protection

Mountain beaver trapping is planned on 39 acres at a cost of \$5,070. Damage by mountain beaver can have significant impacts on stand stocking and growth. Mountain beaver trapping is prescribed on all clearcut harvest units and other recently clearcut units. This is done to reduce the mortality and damage of seedlings to acceptable levels. Species other than Douglas-fir may be treated with big game repellent to help reduce the damage caused by deer and elk.

Recreation Management

Overview of Recreation Management

Based on past assessment of needs and policies, there is very little recreation management needs on district managed lands. Recreation that does occur is mostly confined to hunting, fishing, and camping. Most recreation use is informal dispersed recreation, with the main users being the local residents who live in nearby communities.

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

At the current time there are only two developed recreational facilities on the forest – both on Board of Forestry land. The Millicoma Interpretive Center (MIC) is a fish hatchery and educational outreach facility on the West Fork Millicoma River operated by the ODFW. Salmonids, including chinook, steelhead, and Coho salmon, are spawned, reared, and acclimated at this facility to support fishery programs. The center also provides a hands-on approach to learn about the salmon life cycle to schools and groups who visit the facility. A short forest trail is associated with MIC for use by visitors.

Camp Chinook – adjacent to MIC - is operated by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) who have received a permit to manage and improve the existing site. BSA has proposed improvements to the existing lodge and Adirondack style shelters. BSA has also proposed additional Adirondack style shelters, a covered gathering place, and road improvements. Site improvements may begin in FY2018.

Trails – No planned management.

Land Exchange – No BOF land exchanges are planned in FY2018. However, DSL is conducting the ongoing Elliott Ownership Transfer Opportunity Project.

Other Integrated Forest Management Operations

Cooperation and participation with Coos Watershed Association (CWA), Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), and the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership (TLBP) will continue during the 2018 AOP period. Stream enhancement, restoration projects, and watershed and project monitoring are unlikely activities during this period. Riparian management activities on district managed lands support the goals of the Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan which are to create conditions in which Coho are sufficiently abundant, productive, diverse and self-sustaining and provide substantial environmental, cultural, and economic benefits within the state of Oregon.

The Coos District will continue to sell permits to harvest special forest products on a request basis, consistent with product availability and protection requirements. Anticipated annual revenue is \$75.

Firewood Cutting Program

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 are required

follow the permit instructions, review the permit and district maps, and consult with ODF personnel to ensure they remain on State Forest land. Property lines are frequently unmarked and ODF firewood permits are only valid on State Forest 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 forests by not moving firewood great distances.

The public will be notified of firewood cutting permits through the district office. Permits will be issued for differing lengths based on resource conditions and amount of wood available, during the months outside the fire season. Coos Fire Protective Association (CFPA) regulates fire season and is generally from July 1st through October 15th.

A limited number of personal firewood cutting permits will be issued to the public, on a first come-first served basis, with a limit of two permits per individual or household within a firewood cutting season from fall through spring. The permit cannot be used to sell firewood to another party. Firewood cutting permits will be issued 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. Exceptions to the two-cord limit may be made for non-profit organizations, with prior district authorization. Approximately 25 personal firewood cutting permits are anticipated to be issued in FY18.

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.

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

PLANNING (and Information Systems)

Stand Level Inventory and Other Vegetation Inventories

Stand Level Inventory: There are no plans in the 2018 AOP for any stand level inventory work.

Stocking surveys and young stand fixed plots: These inventory projects as part of normal reforestation efforts identify stocking levels and growth rates and will be used to develop stand

management prescriptions. Prescriptions can include inter-planting, release, animal damage control, and PCT.

Fish and Wildlife Surveys

Under the 2011 ESF FMP and IP, surveys of proposed timber sales for northern spotted owls are required on the Elliott. Density surveys for NSO have occurred in calendar years 2010 - 2016. Operational surveys or spot check surveys will be conducted as required for timber sales approved in prior AOP's.

Table 3. Summary of status of T&E surveys.

Operation	Species (NSO/MM) ¹	Status
Spot Checks	NSO	As required for past AOP timber sales

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

Public Information and Education

The most significant planned activity in this area will be the Annual Operations Plan process including the public comment period.

District personnel routinely participate in and are voting members of the Coos Watershed Association and the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership, and are also non-voting members of the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers. This activity enables the district to keep the watershed councils informed of district operations, to participate in planning watershed enhancement activities, and to receive information from neighboring landowners and other interested parties on concerns they have about lands managed by ODF.

Each year the district participates with other landowners and agencies in the Lower Umpqua Tree Planting Day, which gives local school children an opportunity to plant trees. District personnel also assist with South Slough's Natural Resource Days each spring in helping school children learn basic forest measurements and outdoor skills.

Administration

It is anticipated that there will be no Full-Time-Equivalent positions (**FTE's**) at the Coos District whose responsibility is to implement current and past Annual Operations Plans.

APPENDIXES

A. Summary Tables

Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary

B. Maps of Planned Timber Sales

Not Applicable in FY18

C. Consultations with Other Agencies

No consultations with other agencies were held as no harvest activities are planned.

D. Public Involvement

The Department of Forestry held a 45-day public comment period. No comments were received.

E. Pre-Operations Report

Not Applicable in FY18

Table 7 REFORESTATION AND YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District COOS

Fiscal Year: 2018

02/23/2017

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	19	\$380.00	\$7,220.00	0	\$380.00	\$0.00	19	\$7,220.00
Interplanting	0	\$140.00	\$0.00	0	\$140.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Underplanting	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection-Barriers	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$140.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection-Direct Control	39	\$130.00	\$5,070.00	0	\$40.00	\$0.00	39	\$5,070.00
Site Prep-Chemical- Aerial	10	\$90.00	\$900.00	0	\$90.00	\$0.00	10	\$900.00
Site Prep-Chemical- Hand	9	\$125.00	\$1,125.00	0	\$125.00	\$0.00	9	\$1,125.00
Site Prep -Slash Burning	0	\$125.00	\$0.00	0	\$125.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep -Mechanical	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Fertilization	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Noxious weeds	0	\$50.00	\$0.00	0	\$50.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release-Chemical- Aerial	0	\$60.00	\$0.00	0	\$60.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release,-Chemical-Hand	0	\$125.00	\$0.00	0	\$125.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release-Mechanical-Hand	0	\$140.00	\$0.00	0	\$140.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Precommercial Thinning	0	\$150.00	\$0.00	0	\$150.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Pruning	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Big Game Repellant (BGR)	0	\$40.00	\$0.00	0	\$40.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Totals	77	--	\$14,315.00	0	--	\$0.00	77	\$14,315.00

*Planting costs include all costs including seedlings