

**NORTH CASCADE  
DISTRICT  
2027 ANNUAL  
OPERATIONS PLAN**



# **NORTH CASCADE DISTRICT**

## **FISCAL YEAR 2027 ANNUAL**

### **OPERATIONS PLAN**

#### **OVERVIEW**

This plan describes the activities and outcomes that Oregonians can expect to see on the Santiam State Forest for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). The Santiam State Forest is an actively managed forest, valued by many Oregonians for its 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). The agency strives 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.

Approximately two-thirds of the revenues from state forest timber sales go to local counties and other taxing districts, including schools. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) uses the remaining third of the 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. We are striving to continue to provide the current opportunities and are considering a few opportunities for change.

Every year in the Forest, we learn new things and find new challenges and opportunities. In preparing this plan, the agency will consult with ODF’s wildlife biologists, aquatic and riparian specialist, geotechnical engineer, road engineers, as well as fish and wildlife biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The plan will undergo a 45-day public comment period. The operations have been shared with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon.

This Annual Operations Plan has been reviewed by the State Forests Advisory Committee (composed of Oregonians representing many interests), a variety of interest groups, as well as Oregonians in general.

The activities shown in the Summary Document and appendixes are estimates based on plans, information, and conditions as known at this point in time. The type, amount, and specific activities will be further adjusted based on field work conducted and on updated assessments that occur during the 2027 fiscal year.

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

- Planning on planting approximately 144,000 trees on 360 acres. Conducting vegetation and animal damage management activities on 1,236 acres to ensure the survival and growth of young stands.
- Conducting surveys for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets covering the majority of the district and surveying for the presence of fish habitat if operations include unclassified streams.
- Protecting streams and water resources through a series of buffers and seasonal restrictions.
- Habitat development projects such as creating snags by removing the tops, retaining green trees in clearcut areas, and leaving down wood, all for wildlife benefits in harvest areas and future forests.
- Improving, rocking, and/or maintaining approximately 117.6 miles of road to ensure ditch water is dispersed and filtered as much as possible, keeping runoff from entering streams. Constructing approximately 1.6 miles of new roads. These roads provide access to timber harvest as well as various recreational opportunities.
- Reviewing District roads to develop plans to block or vacate roads to help manage trash dumping and target shooting.
- Prepare timber sale contracts for sale that propose harvest of 10.0 million board feet of timber volume through clearcuts, and partial cuts, generating revenue of an estimated \$4.9 million net value.
- Operating and maintaining developed facilities in a safe, clean, and responsible manner.
- Providing a safe and clean environment for the myriad of dispersed activities that occur across the forest – hunting, camping, angling, sight-seeing, target shooting, swimming, mushroom picking, etc.
- Improving, maintaining, managing, and patrolling the 7 miles of motorized and 26 miles of non-motorized trails, striving to protect the trail investments, provide for visitor safety, address developing trail issues, and protect water quality.
- Providing a firewood cutting program and miscellaneous forest products permits (salal, mushrooms, etc.).
- Supporting ongoing research on the district, in partnership with research cooperatives and universities.

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## INTRODUCTION

This Annual Operations Plan outlines planned activities for state-owned forestland managed by the North Cascade District for Fiscal Year 2027, which begins July 1, 2026 and ends June 30, 2027. This document describes how the activities and projects undertaken by the district will achieve the goals, strategies, and objectives of the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan, draft Habitat Conservation Plan, state forest operational policies and strategies, Stewardship Agreement, and the North Cascade District 2025 Implementation Plan. Please refer to the district Implementation Plan for more specific information on physical characteristics and other district resource information.

The Annual Operations Plan document is divided into five major categories: Integrated Forest Management, Planning and Information Systems, Public Information and Education, Administration, and Appendices. A short summary of proposed activities is listed within this introduction. In addition to describing forest management activities for Fiscal Year 2027, Appendix F describes any modifications to the Forest Land Management Classification System. Appendix G describes any modifications to the North Cascade District Landscape Design\*.

The proposed harvest operations and activities are planned to be prepared during the Fiscal Year 2027 time period. Actual on-the-ground operations will likely not occur during Fiscal Year 2027 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 Fiscal Year 2027.

A 45-day public comment period will be held from April 3, 2026 through May 18, 2026. The District Forester will review and consider all comments received before approving this plan. Any changes to the documents after the public review period are described in Appendix D of the approved plan.

Accomplishments of forest management activities which occurred under previous Annual Operations Plans can be found in several reports, including the *State Forester's Annual Report for the Association of Oregon Counties* and the *Common School Forest Lands Annual Report*. These reports are available through the local district office or online.\*\*

\*Minor/major modifications and the procedures for making these changes are described in the North Cascade District's 2025 Implementation Plan.

\*\*The State Forests' individual district annual reports are available on the Oregon Department of Forestry website under "Reports." You can access here: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Pages/Reports.aspx>

# INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

## Timber Harvest Operations

### Overview of Timber Harvest Operations

All of the Primary and Alternate harvest operations and many of the other forest management activities have been reviewed by ODF’s wildlife biologists, aquatic and riparian specialist, geotechnical engineer, road engineer, and planning manager, as well as fish and wildlife biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. All of the operations will be reviewed against the State Historic Preservation Office and General Land Office databases for potential impact to cultural resources. Occasionally, operations may contain a resource or activity where review with another state agency, such as the Department of Agriculture is warranted. Written comments from the external resource specialists and the resolution of those comments can be found in Appendix C.

The Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operations Plan is estimated to produce 10.0 million board feet in volume, generate gross revenues of approximately \$5,548,300 and net revenues of \$4,907,876. The volume objective meets the 10 million board foot goal outlined in the North Cascade District’s 2025 Implementation Plan. Annual Operations Plans may have volume estimates that are above or below the volume goal with the intent to achieve the goal as a yearly average over the expected duration of the Implementation Plan. The proposed harvest operations and activities are planned to be prepared and sold with this Annual Operations Plan. Table A-1 identifies the planned quarter that a timber sale contract is prepared and submitted and then is auctioned in the following quarter. Generally timber sales planned for the first 3 quarters are sold in the planned fiscal year. Timber sales planned for the 4th quarter will be up for sale in the 1st quarter of the following year. Timber sale contracts generally allow for the harvest of a timber sale to occur any time within a three-year period after a timber sale is sold. This gives the purchasers and operators flexibility to schedule work, adjust for market fluctuations, complete project work, as well as adjust for weather and/or other unforeseen circumstances. Actual volume that is harvested in any given year is the result of harvesting sales in different phases of timber sale contracts that were planned within multiple Annual Operation Plans.

Additional operations may produce timber volume for the district during the 2027 fiscal year but are not included in this Annual Operations Plan. These are generally small areas, produce little volume, and/or are time sensitive in nature. These sales do not require significant effort to develop and execute and will comply with all policies, the district Implementation Plan, and the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan. Examples of these sales include salvage, pulp sales, removal of hazard trees, pole sales, etc.

**Table 1. Planned Annual Operations Plan Volume Compared to Implementation Plan Annual Harvest Objective<sup>1</sup>. Volume is Million Board Feet.**

<b>Harvest Objectives</b>	<b>2025 Implementation Plan Objective</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operations Plan</b>
Volume (Million Board Feet of Timber Volume)	10.0	10.0

<sup>1</sup>Annual Harvest Objective - is the sustainable volume target identified in the Implementation Plan that is, on average, planned to be prepared and submitted for processing each year.

## Overview of Structural Components

The guidelines for managing structural habitat components listed under Landscape Management Strategy 3 in the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan (pg. 4-52), will be followed for the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operations Plan. Structural components may be retained at higher levels in some units and at lower levels in other units. The intent is to achieve the targets outlined in the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan strategies in a given Annual Operations Plan.

The green tree retention target for regeneration harvest units is an average of five trees per acre in the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan. Green tree arrangements for this Annual Operations Plan may include scattered individual trees, clumps of trees, and trees concentrated in and adjacent to riparian management areas, inner gorge areas or headwalls. The final decision on the location and arrangement of the green trees is made while the sale is being laid out to incorporate information on potential minor tree species, unique stand features, steep slopes, visual considerations, reforestation considerations, etc. To promote diversity on the landscape a variety of green tree placement strategies will be used.

The NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan strategy for hard snags is to manage for at least two per acre on average across the landscape. The NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan strategy for Down Woody Debris is to retain an average of 600 to 900 cubic feet of hard conifer logs (class 1 & 2) per acre during regeneration harvest. Strategies for retaining snags and down wood are determined using a current condition assessment from forest inventory data or timber cruising data. The need for snag creation in each unit is evaluated based on cruise or inventory information that documents snags in decay class 1 and 2 in the sale and surrounding landscape. Units with less than 2 hard snags per acre will be evaluated and an appropriate snag prescription will be developed as needed. Down Wood will continue to be created through bucking practices, leaving felled snags in the unit and tops on ground yarding areas.

The wind events of December 2006, November 2007 and December 2007 made significant contributions to snag and down woody debris levels despite the salvage of some large concentrations. The residual decadence in turn led to scattered bark beetle outbreaks resulting in additional tree mortality during 2009-2011. The majority of beetle caused mortality is located within the Mad Creek and Rock Creek Basins. Based on these observations (and evaluation of upcoming timber sale areas), snag creation may only be considered on planned sales outside of those basins. In September 2020, a series of catastrophic wildfires impacted approximately half of the Santiam State Forest causing extensive damage to the forest and producing many residual snags and down woody debris components across the landscape where older stands are present. Due to this now extensive legacy snag and down wood component, snag creation will generally not be pursued within basins that were affected by the 2020 fires. If snags are found in an area during sale layout, efforts are made to leave them on the landscape where safety permits.

In addition to the leave tree strategies within the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan all timber sales within Fiscal Year 2027 will also abide by the green tree retention strategies of the draft Habitat Conservation Plan. Two trees per acre will be retained within any forest stand harvested using regeneration harvest techniques. Trees selected for retention will be outside of Riparian Conservation Areas and will be assessed during each final harvest so that selected trees will not be removed in subsequent rotations and will contribute to long-term recruitment of large diameter snags and downed wood. Overlaps may occur with the green tree retention strategies of the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan. Leave tree configuration will be determined during sale layout to ensure compliance with NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan and draft Habitat Conservation Plan strategies.

## Climate Change and Carbon Storage

Climate change and carbon sequestration are generally topics related to higher-level goals and strategies in a Forest Management Plan. While the current Forest Management Plan doesn't address carbon or climate change directly, the main strategies of the Climate Change and Carbon Plan (2021) are being implemented during this transition period through the implementation of the draft Habitat Conservation Plan strategies combined with the current Forest Management Plan requirements and will result in a variety of forest stand conditions that maintain healthy, multi-species, vigorously growing forests, which will contribute to resilient healthy forests into the future.

Under these current plans, large portions of the landscape provide carbon storage and will continue to do so long into the future. Areas that have high carbon storage potential, especially for those that can provide benefits for threatened and endangered species habitat, water quality, and educational and recreation opportunities for Oregonians have been identified. These include areas that have a desired future condition of Layered or Older Forest Structure, draft Habitat Conservation Areas, Riparian Conservation Areas, no harvest wildlife areas, high value conservation areas, other sensitive areas, and forested areas that are inoperable, etc. In addition, existing old growth trees are also protected and are generally scattered individual trees or occasional small, isolated patches. Legacy structures retained (green trees, snags, down wood) within harvest areas will continue to store carbon while the seedlings regenerating around these structures will accumulate carbon. Carbon is also stored in harvested wood products removed during the Annual Operation Plan implementation, as trees are converted to lumber for houses or other various products a percentage of this carbon is stored until it decays or is replaced.

In addition to these strategies, several silvicultural systems and prescriptions that take into consideration climate-informed forest principles and practices are being utilized to adapt the forest for climate change and mitigate the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These include but are not limited to: planting multiple tree species, utilizing varied planting spacings and densities, and utilizing thinning, longer rotations, and passive management in areas that align with the Forest Management Plan and Draft Habitat Conservation Plan goals and objectives.

Forest health strategies are also being addressed to restore areas impacted by insect pests and diseases to productive forests through the removal of susceptible species and use of site appropriate species. For areas impacted by insects and diseases such as Swiss needle cast, site specific reforestation plans are developed for planting and other young stand management treatments. Site specific prescriptions consider target species, aspect, elevation, soil types, Swiss needle cast risk where applicable, *Phellinus weirii* (laminated root rot) presence, required stocking guidelines, natural advanced regeneration, and the desired future condition of the stand. This will provide for a diverse, healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystem over time that will be more resilient to change.

The division is continually assessing additional practices to address climate change and carbon storage in an informed way that aligns with the Forest Management Plan and draft Habitat and Conservation Plan goals and objectives.

### **Harvest Operations within Habitat Conservation Areas**

Habitat Conservation Areas are one of the draft Habitat Conservation Plan strategies that is being implemented with this Annual Operations Plan. Habitat Conservation Areas were designed to conserve the highest quality existing covered species habitat and nearly all known occupied parts of the permit area; however, there are many areas of lower quality habitat in Habitat Conservation Areas based on their size and the disturbance and management history of the permit area. The

overarching management objective for Habitat Conservation Areas is to increase the quality and quantity of habitat for terrestrial covered species. Stands that provide lower quality habitat or no habitat will be managed more frequently, in order to increase the quality and quantity of habitat. Over time terrestrial species habitat will improve in the Habitat Conservation Areas as more acres of lower quality habitat grow into higher quality habitat.

The majority of stand management that will occur in Habitat Conservation Areas will be in locations that currently provide limited habitat value for covered species. Managing stands in Habitat Conservation Areas that are lacking habitat characteristics for covered species will help promote development of them as the forest grows. These important characteristics include large trees and snags, multistoried and multispecies canopies, and large woody material. The primary purpose of these management actions is to selectively and strategically improve and accelerate development of such habitat characteristics for terrestrial covered species that rely on late-seral forests. At this time management within the Habitat Conservation Areas is limited to the first 30 years of the permit term for the Habitat Conservation Plan. Management within the Habitat Conservation Areas will primarily fall into one of four categories:

- **Healthy Conifer:** Typically management will include a variety of density management prescriptions in young healthy conifer forests to ensure that late-seral structure develops more quickly. Many of these stands have a high original planting density intended for timber production, and will persist as simple, closed canopy stands without a reduction in density and overall uniformity. To improve covered species habitat, these stands will receive thinning and patch cuts that will increase growth of dominant trees and allow for the initiation (or re-initiation) of understory tree and shrub species that will increase both vertical and horizontal heterogeneity, as well as species diversity, within the stand.
- **Swiss Needle Cast:** Another focus of management within Habitat Conservation Areas will be to reset stands that are stunted, due to Swiss needle cast, and will likely not become high quality habitat for covered species over the course of the permit term. By harvesting these stands early in the permit term, including regeneration harvests that remove significant portions of stands, ODF will be able to replant the stands with a species mix that will grow into more suitable habitat during the permit term. Swiss needle cast regeneration prescriptions will include the retention of other conifer and hardwood species that are unaffected by the disease.
- **Conifer Restoration in Hardwood-dominant Stands:** Hardwood-dominant stands include those that have >50% hardwood species. Hardwood species have value for covered species and other wildlife; however, large expanses of red alder dominant stands with little conifer component are unlikely to support nesting northern spotted owls over the permit term. Therefore, there will be a focus on managing a portion of hardwood-dominant stands (primarily red alder) in the first 30 years of the permit term in order to reforest those stands with conifer species that will grow into higher quality habitat for covered species over time. In addition to the reforested conifer component, existing conifers will be retained where operationally feasible, and some hardwoods will also be retained in these stands during harvest.
- **Young Stand Management:** Plantings will occur at lower densities and incorporate greater proportions of minor species (western red cedar, Sitka spruce, western white pine, hemlock, true firs). Natural regeneration will be allowed to occur in some small patch cuts, and root-rot tolerant species will be planted where patch cuts are used to address infestations. If needed, alternative management plans will be filed where restocking conditions fail to meet Forest Practices Act standards. Intensity of manual release operations will be reduced to allow for some hardwood retention and development.

These treatments are intended to promote complex early seral stand conditions that have greater potential to develop into high quality habitat for the covered terrestrial species than more intensive production-oriented treatments and prescriptions.

**Table 2. Summary of Timber Harvest Operations Inside and Outside of Habitat Conservation Areas. All acres are in net acres and volume is planned volume in million board feet.**

2027 Annual Operations Plan								
	Harvest Outside of Habitat Conservation Areas				Harvest Inside of Habitat Conservation Areas			
	Partial Cut Acres	Partial Cut Volume	Clearcut Acres	Clearcut Volume	Partial Cut Acres	Partial Cut Volume	Clearcut Acres	Clearcut Volume
Primary	0	0	358	6.7	217	3.3	0	0
Alternate	0	0	324	8.0	0	0	0	0

Harvest Outside of Habitat Conservation Areas

The 358 acres of regeneration harvest planned for Fiscal Year 2027 represents less than one percent of the district. All of the regeneration harvest acres will be designed as clearcuts.

Harvest Inside of Habitat Conservation Areas

The 217 acres of partial cut harvest is designed with the goal to thin out the dense trees allowing more light to reach the forest floor. This will allow increased understory development and improve the layering of structure within the stand. Prescriptions may incorporate a mix of gap-cuts, areas of untreated stands, and variable density thinning prescriptions. Minor species will be evaluated to reserve based on the composition of the stand and the amount of diversity present. Residual tree selection will emphasize preserving the trees of good form and vigor with the largest diameter and height. These prescriptions will be developed in consultation with ODF biologists.

Refer to the attached North Cascade District Financial Summary Table (Appendix A, Table A-1) and vicinity map (Appendix B) for more detail on expected outputs from planned timber sales.

**Harvest Operations within Terrestrial Anchors and Aquatic Anchors**

Supplemental Species of Concern Strategies provide for fish and wildlife species of concern. Two of these strategies are Terrestrial Anchors and Aquatic Anchors.

Terrestrial Anchors

Terrestrial Anchors are intended to benefit terrestrial wildlife species of concern, especially those associated with older forest or interior habitat conditions, sensitive to forest fragmentation, or do not readily disperse across younger forest conditions. Management within Terrestrial Anchors is intended to be limited, to emulate natural small-scale disturbance patterns, and to minimize short-term negative impacts to habitat. All areas that were designated as Terrestrial Anchors were designated for the development of complex structure in the Landscape Design. Since the adoption of the Terrestrial Anchors in July 2011, the district has been proceeding with operations in these areas. Great care has been given in selecting

stands for harvest and developing prescriptions in these areas to ensure that these harvest activities achieve the goals of the Terrestrial Anchors. These sales were reviewed with ODF and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource Specialists. The entire Rhody Lake Terrestrial Anchor Site was within the 2020 fire perimeter. Approximately 83% of that Terrestrial Anchor was burned, with the majority burned at a moderate or high burn severity. As part of one of the post-fire restoration timber sales that were conducted during Fiscal Year 2022, the road systems within the Terrestrial Anchor were treated with a partial cut prescription along rights of way, with a focus on mitigating fire compromised hazard trees to promote public safety when travelling these roads. ODF in partnership with American Forests were able to underplant 650 acres of high severity burn within the Terrestrial Anchor in Fiscal Year 2023. A mix of Douglas-fir and noble fir were planted totaling 216,000 seedlings. American Forest paid for the planting contractor and the seedlings that were planted. Table 3 shows that there are no harvests planned within the Terrestrial Anchors in the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan. Table 3 also shows the cumulative operations in Terrestrial Anchors since the strategy was adopted (Annual Operations Plans 2013 through 2027).

**Table 3. Summary of Harvest Operations within Terrestrial Anchors (Acres and Percent)**

Acres within Terrestrial Anchors	Current Annual Operations Plan (Fiscal Year 2027)		Cumulative Harvest (Since Fiscal Year 2012)	
	Clearcut	Partial Cut	Clearcut	Partial Cut
<b>Terrestrial Anchor Basin</b>				
<b>Rhody Lake Terrestrial Anchor (1,354 ac)</b>	0	0	0	269
% of Acres	0	0	0	19.5%

Aquatic Anchors

Aquatic Anchors are geographically identified watersheds and are intended to benefit fish and amphibian species of concern. In these watersheds, additional riparian management strategies are applied to meet or exceed standards in the Forest Management Plan when conducting harvest operations. These watersheds will be managed in accordance with strategies in the draft Habitat Conservation Plan that prioritize salmonid recovery while balancing multiple purposes of state forest. The strategy is accomplished by minimizing the potential for adverse effects to aquatic and riparian habitats and maintaining key ecological functions and processes required to create and maintain functional habitat. These strategies do not preclude or limit harvest or road building activities outside of riparian conservation areas, but rather supplement current Forest Management Plan riparian buffer protections to further bolster the conservation goals in these watersheds.

**Summary of Timber Harvest Operations by Basin**

In the following section, the harvest operations planned for Fiscal Year 2027 will be summarized in the context of the eleven management basins on the North Cascade District. Since the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan strategies provide standards for structural components such as green trees, snags, down wood as well as riparian protection, these are not discussed in the summary. Road strategies and standards are discussed in the Forest Roads Management

section. Additional information regarding the harvest operations may be found within Table A-2, the Forest Resources Summary in Appendix A.

**Table 5. Summary of Timber Harvest Operations in each basin. All values are in net acres.**

Basin	2027 Annual Operations Plan	
	Partial Cut	Clearcut
Butte Creek	0	242
Cedar Creek	0	0
Crabtree	0	0
Green	0	0
Mad Creek	76	114
Rock Creek	141	2
Scattered	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>357</b>

### **Butte Creek Basin**

Enterprise: This is a 2-unit sale totaling 167 acres. Unit 1 is an 81-acre clearcut of 44 to 83-year-old Douglas-fir, western hemlock and red alder. There is also a small stand of 178-year-old trees within the unit that will be reserved as leave trees. Unit 2 is an 86-acre clear cut of 88 to 92-year-old Douglas-fir and western hemlock. A portion of Unit 1 was thinned in 2011. A portion of Unit 2 was thinned in 2001. The sale was within the perimeter of the 2020 Labor Day fires and both units have experienced additional post-fire mortality in the years following the fires. The current stand condition of the area being harvested is Understory, with the exception of the 178 year-old stand being reserved as leave trees which has a current stand condition of Older Forest Structure. The Desired Future Condition is for non-complex stands. Following the completion of harvest, the sale will be planted with a mixture of species native to the geographic area.

Approximately 0.5 miles of road will be constructed, and 9.8 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

Butte Creek Campground is located along the northern boundary of Unit 1. The district will work closely with the Recreation Program during sale planning, layout, and administration to minimize impact to the recreational sites and mitigate public use safety concerns.

Left Shoo: This is a 1-unit clearcut sale totaling 75 acres of 81 to 87-year-old Douglas-fir, western hemlock and red alder. The entire sale area was thinned in 2000. The sale was also within the perimeter of the 2020 Labor Day fires and the East half of the sale has experienced additional post-fire mortality in the years following the fires. The current stand condition of the area being harvested is Understory and the Desired Future Condition is for non-complex stands. Following the completion of harvest, the sale will be planted with a mixture of species native to the geographic area.

Part of the sale is within the Shoofly Creek Northern Spotted Owl site. A biological assessment will be developed for this sale by an ODF wildlife biologist and reviewed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Approximately 0.6 miles of road will be constructed, and 9.6 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

## **Cedar Creek Basin**

There are no sales in the Cedar Creek Basin in Fiscal Year 2027

## **Crabtree Basin**

There are no sales in the Crabtree Basin in Fiscal Year 2027

## **Green Basin**

Back in the Saddle (Alternate): This is a 2-unit sale totaling 66 acres. Unit 1 is a 51 acre clearcut of 40 to 46-year-old Douglas-fir and western hemlock. Unit 2 is a 15 acre clearcut of 40-year old Douglas-fir. The North half of Unit 1 was part of a post-fire salvage partial cut after the 2020 Labor Day fires. Green trees were left at that time, however there has been additional post-fire mortality since the salvage. The remainder of the sale are planted stands with additional post-fire mortality after the 2020 Labor Day fires. The current stand condition of the area being harvested is Understory and the Desired Future Condition is for non-complex stands. Following the completion of harvest, the sale will be planted with a mixture of species native to the geographic area.

The sale may be visible from Highway 22. This will be taken into consideration while developing a green tree retention strategy for the sale.

Approximately 5.2 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

Jade Cascade (Alternate): This is a 4-unit sale totaling 90 acres. Unit 1 is a 53-acre clearcut of 65 to 8-year-old Douglas-fir, western hemlock and red alder. Unit 2 is a 29-acre clearcut of 55 to 65-year-old Douglas-fir and red alder. Unit 3 is a 5-acre clearcut of 65-year-old Douglas-fir. Unit 4 is a 3 acre clearcut of 65-year old Douglas-fir. The sale consists of planted stands that were thinned in 2000 and were within the perimeter of the 2020 Labor Day fires. The current stand condition of the area being harvested is Understory and the Desired Future Condition is for non-complex stands. Following the completion of harvest, the sale will be planted with a mixture of species native to the geographic area.

The sale may be visible from Highway 22. This will be taken into consideration while developing a green tree retention strategy for the sale.

Approximately 1.2 miles of road will be constructed, and 2.9 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

## **Mad Creek Basin**

Little Rock Divide: This is a 2-unit sale totaling 114 acres. Unit 1 is a 25-acre clearcut of 32 to 51-year-old Douglas-fir. Unit 2 is a 89-acre clearcut of 32- to 55-year-old Douglas-fir and western hemlock. The sale consists of planted stands with no history of precommercial or commercial thinning. The sale area was within the perimeter of the 2020 Labor Day fires and experienced low to moderate burn severity. Unit 2 has experienced increasing post-fire mortality since the fires. The current stand condition of the area being harvested is Understory and the Desired Future Condition is for non-complex stands. Following the completion of harvest, the sale will be planted with a mixture of species native to the geographic area.

The sale may be visible from Highway 22. This will be taken into consideration while developing a green tree retention strategy for the sale.

Approximately 5870 ft. of the Monument Peak Loop Trail exists within Unit 2. The district will work closely with the Recreation Program during sale layout and administration to minimize impact to the recreational trail and mitigate public use safety concerns.

Approximately 0.03 miles of road will be constructed, and 2.4 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

Pole in One: This sale is split between the Rock Creek and Mad Creek Basins, with the majority located in the Rock Creek Basin (see the Rock Creek Basin section for the sale description).

Lucky #7 (Alternate): This is a 2-unit sale totaling 81 acres. Unit 1 is a 68-acre clearcut of 47-year-old Douglas-fir and western hemlock. Unit 2 is a 13-acre clearcut of 47-year-old Douglas-fir and western hemlock. The sale consists of planted stands that were within the perimeter of the 2020 Labor Day fires. Hazardous trees adjacent to roads were removed from Unit 1 as part of a post-fire hazard mitigation partial cut in 2021. There has been additional post-fire mortality in Unit 1 since the salvage. The No Harvest Other area in Unit 2 was harvested as part of a 2021 post-fire salvage operation. That salvaged area will need to be yarded through to access the remainder of Unit 2. The current stand condition of the area being harvested is Understory and the Desired Future Condition is for non-complex stands. Following the completion of harvest, the sale will be planted with a mixture of species native to the geographic area.

Approximately 0.1 miles of road will be constructed, and 4.5 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

### **Rock Creek Basin**

Pole in One: This sale is split between the Rock Creek and Mad Creek Basins, with the majority located in the Rock Creek Basin. It is a 2-unit sale totaling 219 acres. Unit 1 is a 217-acre partial-cut of 76 to 107-year-old Douglas-fir. Unit 2 is 2-acre right-of-way harvest for the construction of new roads necessary to complete the unit 1 thinning operations. The stands within the sale have no prior history of thinning. The current stand condition of the area being harvested is Understory (94 acres) and Layered (124 acres) and the Desired Future Condition is for complex stands. The sale is entirely within a draft Habitat Conservation Area. The partial-cut prescription will be developed in collaboration with agency wildlife biologists to create complex stand structure and improve future habitat.

Approximately 0.5 miles of road will be constructed, and 5 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

1% of the sale is located on Common School Land

Kaupperhead (Alternate): This is a 2-unit sale totaling 87 acres. Unit 1 is an 86-acre clearcut of 60-year-old Douglas-fir and western hemlock. Unit 2 is a 1-acre right-of-way harvest of 31-year-old and 96-year-old Douglas-fir and western hemlock needed for new road construction to access Unit 1 operations. The sale area was thinned in 2009. The current stand condition of the area being harvested is Understory (85 acres) and Older Forest Structure (0.3 acres) and the Desired Future Condition is for non-complex stands (85 acres) and complex stands (0.3 acres). 0.3 acres of Unit 2 are within a draft Habitat Conservation Area. Following the completion of harvest, the sale will be planted with a mixture of species native to the geographic area.

Approximately 0.3 miles of road will be constructed, and 3.1 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

### **Scattered Basin**

There are no sales in the Scattered Basin in Fiscal Year 2027

## **Forest Roads Management**

### **Overview**

The State Forest Road network provides access for forest management activities, fire suppression, and recreation. Visions, guiding principles, and goals for managing the road network are discussed in the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan (April 2010) and the State Forest Roads Manual (September 2006). The State Forest Roads Manual also provides standards and guidance for all road management activities and definitions, road classifications and other terms.

Roadwork in this Annual Operations Plan is related to constructing spur roads and for improving haul routes for the Fiscal Year 2027 timber sales. Some of the roadside vegetation management and road maintenance within this Annual Operations Plan will also benefit public access and future timber sale haul routes. This section describes the types of road management activities that will occur in Fiscal Year 2027 and the attached Forest Roads Summary Table (Appendix A, Table A-3) describes the anticipated total amounts.

### **Road Construction**

The District evaluates each timber sale and strives to build the minimum number of roads required, except where the District has identified road systems that can be moved away from existing streams to mitigate hydrological issues. This may result in more road miles, but relocating roads away from the stream network is beneficial for watershed processes. The District tries to limit the number of stream crossings where possible when building new roads. Where stream crossings are unavoidable, new and replacement stream crossings will be designed to meet National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (2022) passage criteria to maintain passage for covered fish species where applicable and follow best management practices outlined in the State Forest Roads Manual. All planned road construction is reviewed by the geotechnical specialist to ensure that new roads are located in stable locations to provide the best protection to natural resources while meeting the objective of the road. Discussions are held regarding the long-term use of the road by district staff for reforestation and future management, and whether a road needs to be surfaced or if it can be left unsurfaced. Financial costs of the construction and long-term maintenance are considered as well as potential impact to sale operations, anticipated closures related to weather, and long-term impact to wildlife and recreation. Over time minimal roads will be built within Habitat Conservation Areas and rarely within Riparian Conservation Areas. The intent is to be very deliberate when building roads in these locations, to ensure that other options were reviewed, that the planned road location is required and that other alternatives were not operationally or economically feasible.

### **Road Improvement**

Road improvement projects will use ODF road inventory protocols to assess existing road drainage, stability, and vegetation conditions, and to aid in the development of transportation

system improvement plans. Road Improvement activities will follow the guidance of the State Forest Roads Manual, State Forest Stewardship Agreement, and Chapter 4 of the draft Habitat Conservation Plan. Road improvement is generally accomplished through timber sale or Work Order Contracts. The majority of this improvement work will be performed on collector and spur roads and may consist of installing or replacing culverts, ditchline or cutbank improvements, or sidecast pull back and stabilization efforts.

### **Road Maintenance**

Roads will be maintained as necessary to protect water quality and the road system asset value. Road maintenance activities will follow the maintenance guidance in Chapter 7 of the Forest Roads Manual, Forest Practices rules, and Chapter 4 of the draft Habitat Conservation Plan. Road maintenance is accomplished through timber sale contracts or Work Order Contracts. Maintenance is focused on ensuring proper drainage to prevent sediment entering streams. Collector roads and roads in active sale areas need and get the most maintenance. District personnel respond to heavy storms and thaw periods by performing road inspections, additional maintenance, and where necessary, stopping heavy truck use during periods when roads cannot handle traffic without damage to water quality or the road asset.

### **Road Vacating**

Roads may be vacated for a variety of reasons such as changing access needs, reducing maintenance costs, and/or to help meet objectives for aquatics, fish and amphibians, wildlife, recreation or other forest resources. Road vacating projects reduce potential impacts to the landscape and hydrologically disconnect the drainage from the stream system. This leaves them in a condition where road-related damage to the waters of the State is unlikely. When a road is vacated and taken off the active road network, erosion prevention work will be performed so that continued maintenance is not necessary. This includes but is not limited to removing sidecast material, stream crossings, culverts, cross drains and fills; installing maintenance free drainage, excavating unstable road and landing fills; treating ditch and road surfaces to disperse runoff and prevent surface erosion; and revegetating exposed soils. Segments of a road that have near-natural levels of risk for sediment delivery can be left intact and receive minimal road drainage improvements.

### **Road Access Management**

State Forests are managed to support public access while providing for community safety, environmental benefits, protection of state and private assets, and wildfire prevention. Following timber harvest, roads are evaluated for their public access benefits and costs. Some roads are closed and vacated to reduce the maintenance costs and to minimize impacts to the environment. These areas remain open for walk-in use. The Department retains the option of gating roads if vandalism, neighbor concerns, or excessive road damage from public use becomes a problem in particular areas. The public may still access these areas on foot, bicycle or horseback.

### **Hydrologic Connectivity**

Hydrological connectivity surveys are performed on haul routes during sale layout. The intent of these surveys is to determine what portions of the road and ditchlines are directly connected to streams and determine if there are ways to minimize or mitigate the connection distances. ODF prioritizes road improvement projects that address hydrologic connectivity and culvert replacements that are barriers to fish migration on active or planned haul routes and sites of opportunity near active or planned haul routes. Road improvement and

maintenance investments are made to support forest operations, protect existing road infrastructure and water quality, and provide for safety improvements. ODF also closely monitors road conditions on active haul routes and performs additional patrols and assessments during and after inclement weather events. The District will continue conducting hydrologic connectivity surveys and mitigating items discovered during the process.

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

The District provides durable rock for in-sale spurs and haul routes, which allows for year-round harvest opportunities. Rock quarry development, rock crushing, and/or purchasing rock is necessary to provide sufficient quantities of the road rock for planned road construction, road improvement, and road maintenance activities.

Quarry developments are planned for the following operations; however, these plans are subject to change as timber sale project work is laid out:

- BC720 Pit
- BC510 Pit
- NRC400 Pit
- MC500 Pit
- SM200 Pit

The District will continue to explore new rock sources and further development of existing rock quarries in Fiscal Year 2027.

### **Work Order Contracts**

Road maintenance and improvement projects not associated with a timber sale will be primarily facilitated through Work Order Contracts. This process uses the same protocols and guidance outlined in the road improvement and maintenance sections but allows the department to be efficient in accomplishing this work and prepare for future projects. The work associated with these contracts can include bridge design, fish culvert installation, road brushing, road maintenance and repair, or repairing/replacing gates.

#### Other Planned Road Projects to be completed by Work Order Contract in the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operations Plan:

- Roadside Spraying
- Kirk Creek Road Improvement
- North Block Road Improvement
- South Block Road Improvement
- Mad 7 Rock Crushing

### **Roadside Vegetation Management**

The district manages vegetation alongside forest roads. Vegetation management protects the road infrastructure by preventing damage from unchecked vegetation growth, helps to maintain a safe driving environment by maintaining clear sight distance, controls noxious weeds, and reduces fire hazards. Roadside vegetation will be controlled manually, mechanically or

chemically where necessary. The method used will depend on the characteristics of the vegetation and its location. During the spring of 2026, roadside vegetation surveys will be conducted to determine roadside chemical treatment needs for Fiscal Year 2027. The project will be done by utilizing experienced contractors.

## **Land Surveying**

Every year surveying needs are analyzed and planned to be kept at a minimum level while ensuring property lines and corners are clearly marked. Survey work may be accomplished through service contracts with licensed professional land surveyors, or cost sharing with adjacent landowners. The 2020 Labor Day fires destroyed property line markers in many areas. These need to be resurveyed or refreshed prior to harvest. Land surveying may be necessary on the following sales:

- No surveys needed for Fiscal Year 2027

## **Young Stand Management**

The State Forest strategy is to use a range of silvicultural tools to establish and maintain diverse stands of well-adapted natural species throughout the landscape to meet the objectives and goals in the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan and District Implementation Plan. These tools include site preparation, planting, tree protection, vegetation management, pre-commercial thinning, early commercial thinning and interplanting or replanting. Each practice must be considered and prescribed for individual stands on a site-specific basis.

This section describes the types of reforestation and young stand management activities that will occur in Fiscal Year 2027 and the attached Young Stand Management Table (Appendix A, Table A-4) describes the anticipated total amounts. The location and amount (acres) of these activities are estimates based on plans, information and conditions as known at this point in time. The type, amount and specific stand management prescriptions will be further adjusted based on when existing harvest units are completed and on updated assessments and surveys that will occur during and after the 2026 growing season.

Reforestation activities will be completed by using experienced contractors. A portion of the activities may be completed by utilizing crews from South Fork Camp, Santiam Correctional Institute, or Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. These crews work on activities such as tree protection, mechanical hand release, and noxious weed control.

## **Seedlings / Nurseries**

In order to meet the goals of the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan, the State Forests Program requires tree seedlings that are physiologically healthy and best suited for the planting sites. A wide variety of seedlings are grown at forest nurseries throughout the Pacific Northwest to meet the reforestation needs. Seedlings are grown in three different stock types: 1) plug seedlings or one-year-old container grown seedlings, 2) plug ones which are grown one year in a container followed by a second year in a bare root bed, and 3) straight bare root seedlings grown from seed in a bare root bed and then transplanted to a lower stocking bare root bed. The budget accounts for a string of growing costs over several years rather than just those costs of the trees being grown and planted in the winter. The budget for seedlings includes portions of the costs for growing seedlings for three planting years. Additionally, there are costs associated with the seed that is used for growing the seedlings, estimated transportation costs and various costs associated with packaging and

freezer and/or cooler storage. The individual species mixture and stock type used for a particular reforestation unit is determined after the final inventory from the forest nursery and varies by District.

## Site Preparation

Site preparation is any planned measure to prepare a site to allow for favorable growing conditions for newly planted seedlings. More than one of these techniques may be used for any given site based on the attributes and reforestation prescription for the site. The three main site preparation techniques are mechanical, chemical and slash burning.

- 1) Slash Burning: Slash burning can be accomplished by broadcast burning the entire unit or burning piles that result from mechanical site preparation.
- 2) Mechanical: Mechanical site preparation is the use of mechanized equipment to rearrange or alter forest slash and/or disturb the forest surface layer and vegetation to create seedbeds or planting spots. Planting spots are created in a fairly even distribution. Dense slash concentrations created during timber harvest may be mechanically piled as part of the timber sale contract.
- 3) Chemical: Chemical site preparation involves the application of herbicides to control competing vegetation before planting or natural regeneration and during the early stages of seedling establishment. Applications occur by two primary methods: aerially by helicopter or ground based with the use of backpack application equipment. The objective is to control brush species to allow stand establishment and maintain 2-3 years free of significant competing vegetation. The actual site preparation plan will be prepared in late spring when harvest unit availability and brush development is better known.

## 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. Planting is comprised of matching the appropriate species and stock type to the planting site. Forest health strategies are addressed on a site specific basis when the planting plan is developed. Site specific prescriptions consider target species, aspect, elevation, soil types, Swiss needle cast risk where applicable, *Phellinus weirii* (laminated root rot) presence, required stocking guidelines, natural advanced regeneration, and the desired future condition of the stand. To accomplish this, a mixture of species is planted to provide for a healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystem over time and to be more resilient to climate change. The following are different types of planting.

- 1) Initial Planting (Regeneration harvest units): Planting activities establish the desired species and stocking levels to meet the goals in the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan and Forest Practices Laws. Planted seedlings will be well suited and adapted to the reforestation site and where appropriate, a mixture of species may be planted to increase diversity on the landscape.
- 2) Interplanting: Interplanting may occur when stocking levels fall below or are at risk of falling below Forest Practices Act minimums. In certain instances, interplanting will occur to increase stocking on high quality sites to fully capture the site. In other areas, lower stocking will be acceptable, as it will provide high quality early seral habitat while still meeting Forest Practices Act requirements.

- 3) Underplanting: This type of planting is occasionally conducted after thinning in order to introduce both species diversity and an additional future layer of structure into a stand.
- 4) Natural Regeneration: Units or portions of units are assessed prior to planting. Natural regeneration is considered primarily in western hemlock stands that have been salvaged from windstorms, where small gaps and holes less than 2 acres have been created in partial cut units, and in unit rock outcrops or cliffs. Natural regeneration of red alder and other minor species is used to provide diversity in all harvest units.

### **Tree Protection**

Animal damage on newly planted seedlings reduces their overall size, health and vigor. Extensive damage can lead to interplanting, may extend the time to achieve free to grow status as defined by the Forest Practices Act and prevent meeting NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan goals. Deer and elk, as well as mountain beaver, can heavily damage young seedlings. Various tree protection strategies are applied to help re-establish trees in areas with high concentrations of these species. Most commonly, various types of physical barriers (bud caps, vexar tubes, etc.) help prevent damage from big game. Direct control includes trapping mountain beaver in highly populated areas prior to planting helps prevent damage to newly planted seedlings.

### **Vegetation Management – Release Treatments**

Vegetation management is done to reduce light, moisture or nutrient competition from undesirable vegetation in a young stand of trees to improve survival and growth. It can also be used to alter tree species composition under pressure from insect and disease and favor species that are tolerant or resistant to the threat. Vegetation management may be required to meet forest practices reforestation stocking requirements, the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan and the District Implementation Plan. There are two types of vegetation management, chemical and manual release treatments. They are described below.

Chemical Release: Chemical release treatments involve the application of herbicides to control undesirable vegetation. Typical application methods are broadcast, directed spray, and hack and squirt. Broadcast application treatments are sprayed over the top of seedlings and undesirable vegetation using either aerial or backpack methods. Directed spray applications are made with a backpack and target individual plants. This method is often used to remove invasive species such as Scotch broom from young stands. Hack and squirt involves basal or stem injection of chemicals. This method is typically applied to hardwoods as a way to release conifers from hardwood competition.

Manual Release: Manual release can include cutting down of noxious weeds or hardwoods. Hardwood release is used when ingrowth of hardwoods, mainly red alder in the northwest and madrone and tanoak in the southwest, threaten to change the stand from conifer dominate to hardwood dominate. In this treatment, the majority of hardwoods are removed using chainsaws leaving all of the conifer trees. This differs from pre-commercial thinning (described below) in the fact that conifer spacing and species are not manipulated. While hardwoods are important on the landscape and some are retained, long-term conifer production is the goal for many stands across the district.

### **Pre-Commercial Thinning**

Pre-commercial thinning is a silviculture activity used to manipulate the density, structure or species composition of overstocked young forest stands. Generally, the purpose of a pre-commercial thinning operation is to release the most vigorous growing trees so they can

maintain their growth. Pre-commercial thinning is normally conducted in a stand between the ages of 13 and 17 years old. In areas of disease such as Swiss needle cast or *Phellinus weirii*, pre-commercial thinning can be used to favor species other than impacted Douglas-fir trees in the residual stand.

## **Stocking Surveys**

The district has the responsibility of ensuring that the goals of the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan are met. Stocking surveys are one tool to ensure the stands are on track for the desired future condition. The surveys are done in order to check initial plantation survival at a time when the seedlings are vulnerable and there is still time to remedy problems, by using interplanting and animal damage control measures as examples. In addition, stocking surveys are conducted in order to assess free-to-grow status and to get baseline data on the stand for future management planning, for example evaluating release treatments and pre-commercial thinning candidates.

## **Invasive Species**

Most noxious weeds or invasive plants are found along roads and have spread into plantations. The main sources for the weed introduction into the forest are vehicle tires, equipment moved into and out of district, and where soil disturbance occurs. 100% weed-free grass seed and certified weed-free straw used for mulch is required for project work on roads. Equipment washing is required in timber sale contracts to prevent the introduction of weed seed from other sites. It is also required that weed-free hay is used for feeding stock on State Forest Lands.

The district will continue to work with Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program personnel to identify appropriate steps that can be taken to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants. Knotweed, Scotch broom, and false brome are the primary species known to exist in the District. In September 2020, a series of catastrophic wildfires impacted approximately half of the Santiam State Forest. One of the results from this event is the observed significant increase in the amount of invasive species that thrive off forest disturbances, specifically Scotch broom. Due to this increase in the amount of Scotch broom present, the district plans to utilize different techniques within the integrated system of pest management to combat this invasive species. Active control measures are being planned and prioritized for roadside, in-unit, and trail treatment.

## **Recreation Management**

### **Overview of Recreation Management**

Recreation use has been taking place on the Santiam State Forest for more than 70 years and has been managed to varying degrees. Currently the direction for management of recreation flows from the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan (2010).

Recreation use includes hunting, fishing, target shooting, Off-Highway Vehicle riding, mountain biking, hiking, equestrian use, mushroom picking, sight-seeing, picnicking, boating, swimming, and camping. Recreation use takes place in developed sites and in dispersed sites across state forest land. Use levels for all activities are expected to increase.

Dispersed site activities are expected to continue in Fiscal Year 2027 and will require varying degrees of recreation use management and district staff attention. Dispersed use

sites will be monitored, maintained, and improved or closed as resources allow to meet safety, sanitation, and resource protection objectives.

The Fiscal Year 2027 plan focuses on maintaining current trails, facilities, and opportunities by maintaining existing infrastructure, providing resources for addressing public safety and sanitation, and mitigating impact to natural resources. The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will also focus on internal business processes to improve internal integration with other state forest business, improve spatial data organization, standardize recreation infrastructure, improve information delivery to the public, and align operational activities with the guidelines and requirements identified in the draft Habitat Conservation Plan.

### **Facilities (Campgrounds, Viewpoints, Trailheads, etc.)**

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program operates and maintains the following developed facilities in the North Cascade District:

- 3 Campgrounds
- 1 Off-Highway Vehicle Staging Area
- 1 Day Use Area
- 7 Trailheads and parking areas
- Dispersed camping and target shooting opportunities

### **Facility Maintenance**

Maintenance of existing facilities remains the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Programs' highest priority. Facilities will be maintained as necessary to protect investment, address developing resource and safety issues, and to protect water quality.

Facility maintenance work includes the completion of facility condition assessments on all facility infrastructure, prioritization of maintenance needs, development of maintenance plans, and completion of maintenance work identified. Standard facility maintenance work includes performing maintenance activities on restrooms, trash and garbage services, facility access roads and trails, facility infrastructure (picnic tables, fire pits, potable water wells, grey water disposal areas, tent pads, wood storage sheds, picnic shelters, parking areas...etc.), sign and information board infrastructure, and vegetation management.

Heavy facility maintenance work such as addressing landslides, sinkholes, flood damage, and downed trees which results from winter storms will be incorporated into facility maintenance plans and conducted as needed.

Facility maintenance needs vary year to year based on factors such as volume of use and seasonal weather conditions.

### **Motorized (Off-Highway Vehicle) Trails**

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will continue to place emphasis on the maintenance and upgrade of existing trails. Upgrades will be focused on improving trail system connectivity and diversity, reducing user conflict, addressing user safety, natural resource protection, recreational infrastructure investment protection, improving sustainability, and reducing maintenance workload.

To support Off-Highway Vehicle Program management, ODF receives All-Terrain Vehicle Fund dollars from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to support personnel and associated service and supply costs.

**Non-motorized Trails**

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will continue to place emphasis on maintenance, and upgrade of existing trails. Upgrades will be focused on improving trail system connectivity and diversity, reducing user conflict, addressing user safety, natural resource protection, recreational infrastructure investment protection, improving sustainability, and reducing maintenance workload.

Fiscal Year 2027 non-motorized trail projects in the North Cascade District are identified and described in the following table (Table 6).

**Table 6. Non-Motorized Trail Projects**

Project Type	Project Name	Project Status	Work Resources	Project Description
Construction	Catamount Trail	Fiscal Year 2027	Recreation Staff, Volunteers	850 feet of trail planned to be constructed in FY27.

**Trail Maintenance (Motorized and Non-motorized)**

Maintenance of existing trails remains the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program’s highest trail program priority. Trails will be maintained as necessary to protect investment, address developing resource and safety issues, and to protect water quality.

Trail maintenance work includes the completion of trail condition assessments on all trails and trail infrastructure, prioritization of maintenance needs, development of maintenance plans, and completion of maintenance work identified. Standard trail maintenance work includes activities such as cleaning water bars and rolling dips, cleaning out culverts, performing trail tread repair work, cleaning trail bridges, clearing downed trees, vegetation management, sign infrastructure maintenance, and trail infrastructure repair or replacement.

Heavy trail maintenance work such as addressing landslides, sinkholes, flood damage, and downed trees which results from winter storms will be incorporated into trail maintenance plans and conducted as needed.

Trail maintenance needs vary year to year based on factors such as volume of use and seasonal weather conditions.

**Hydrologic Connectivity**

Hydrological connectivity surveys will be performed on trails during trail maintenance and condition assessments. The intent of these surveys is to determine what portions of the road and ditchlines are directly connected to streams and determine if there are ways to minimize or mitigate the connection distances. The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program prioritizes trail improvement projects that address hydrologic connectivity. Trail maintenance investments will be made to support recreational opportunities, protect existing trail infrastructure, protect water quality, and provide for public safety improvements.

## Timber Sale and Recreation Resource Interactions

As a working forest it is inevitable that as we plan timber harvest activity there will be interaction with recreational infrastructure. The district and Recreation, Education, and Interpretation staff collaborate when sale and recreation resource interactions occur and develop actions to minimize impact to recreational infrastructure and address natural resource impact when trails do not meet sustainability or resource protection goals.

Details have been added to Pre-Operation reports for each timber sale that has nearby recreational resources to detail what actions are planned for the recreational resource.

Timber sales may extend for several years depending on the flow of operations. The table below lists the planned 2027 Fiscal Year timber sales that will impact recreation resources.

**Table 6. Timber Sale & Recreation Resource Interactions**

Project Type	Timber Sale Name	Trail/Facility Name	Project Description
Planning	Little Rock Divide	Monument Peak Loop Trail	Trails or Facilities impacted by timber sale activity will be temporarily closed due to public safety concerns and re-opened once harvest activity is completed and repairs are completed if necessary. See timber sale pre-op reports for additional information.
Planning	Enterprise	Butte Creek Campground	

## Volunteer Program and Partnerships

Volunteers contribute labor, supplies, and expertise to the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program. Volunteers have partnered with ODF to construct new trails, maintain infrastructure, and preserve natural resources.

Volunteer activities include:

- Camp Host Program at Santiam Horse Camp Campground
- Non-profit and user group led trail maintenance and construction work parties

In Fiscal Year 2027, activities associated with the volunteer program will include the recruitment, selection, and management of campground hosts, planning and management of volunteer trail maintenance and development work, and special volunteer projects.

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program continues to partner with local recreation providers and volunteers to maintain working relationships and accomplish work. The program will continue to look for opportunities to develop new partnerships and to enhance existing partnerships that will increase our collective capacity to meet program and project goals and objectives.

## Grants

The program will be exploring applying for grants to support a variety of infrastructure projects across state forest land.

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will also be partnering with clubs and organizations that will be submitting grant applications to advance program work in the Northwest Oregon Area.

## **Target Shooting**

The Recreation Program, in collaboration with our partners in the target shooting community and North Cascade District, will continue to work on implementing a target shooting management strategy that will work towards:

- Resolving the safety, sanitation, and environmental issues.
- Reducing the fire potential associated with target shooting.
- Developing public ownership and involvement in the development and implementation of the strategy.

Maintaining safe and sustainable opportunities for recreational target shooting on the Santiam State Forest.

## **Education and Interpretation**

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will continue to monitor interpretive opportunities in the Santiam State Forest and provide interpretive resources as capacity allows. In Fiscal Year 2027, the following interpretive work will occur:

- Update and print the Santiam State Forest Recreation Guide to reflect current recreational opportunities.
- Continue work to record historical evidence and interpretive resources and data to preserve the record and provide meaning to the Labor Day Fires in relation to the Santiam State Forest.

## **Other Integrated Forest Management Projects**

### **Aquatic & Riparian Management**

All fish bearing streams found in State Forests are subject to the Management Standards for Aquatic and Riparian Areas as outlined in Appendix J found in the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan (2010). An objective of State Forests' aquatic resources is to maintain, enhance, and restore quality fish habitat. This is achieved primarily through riparian buffer strategies specific to the aquatic resource characteristics such as presence of fish, size, and flow duration. The goal of all riparian management prescriptions is to obtain mature forest conditions (e.g., development of the natural community appropriate for that site) as expediently as possible. Aquatic Anchors have been established on watersheds in the District in which additional aquatic conservation measures are applied when regeneration harvesting.

Several strategies, described in the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan, dictate protection measures designed to protect, maintain, and restore aquatic and riparian functions. These strategies are employed during harvest activities and include but are not limited to: leave trees adjacent to streams to protect stream temperature, provide nutrients, protect stream banks, and eventually provide wood to improve fish habitat. Best management practices for road construction, reconstruction, and maintenance minimize impacts to water quality.

In addition to the strategies detailed in the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan all goals and strategies identified within the draft Habitat Conservation Plan will be followed for Fiscal Year 2027 timber sales. These goals and strategies at times will overlap with those within the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan. Final stream protection configurations will be determined during sale layout to ensure compliance with NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan strategies.

Threatened and Endangered Fish Species: Federally Threatened Salmon and Steelhead listed species with Critical Habitat Designations found within the District include Upper Willamette River Winter Steelhead and Upper Willamette River Spring Chinook.

Fish Presence Surveys: Streams are classified based on the presence of certain fish species and suitable habitat. A Type F stream represents a stream that is inhabited at any time of the year by anadromous or game fish species or fish that are listed as threatened or endangered species under the federal or state endangered species acts. A Type N stream represents a stream that is not occupied at any time of the year by anadromous or game fish species. Traditionally, fish use determinations were made primarily utilizing electrofishing but since 2007, Forest Practices rules were revised to include a physical habitat survey as an approved method for classifying fish use. As of July 1, 2023, a fish distribution model was approved for regulatory purposes to classify streams for fish use. State Forest staff can use the modelled approach for classifying streams to designate the appropriate riparian protection measures and can perform a field survey following approved ODFW protocols and workflows to verify and/or correct the modeled fish distribution where discrepancies are discovered.

Flow Permanence Surveys: Streams are classified based on flow duration. A perennial stream represents a stream that has flowing surface water year-round during a typical water year. A seasonal stream represents a stream that does not have flowing surface water year-round and may dry up completely during a typical water year. Flow permanence determinations have been made using a variety of protocols and techniques over the years. As of July 1, 2023, a flow permanence field protocol was approved for regulatory purposes to classify streams for flow duration. State Forest staff are required to complete an operational field survey following approved ODFW protocols and workflows for classifying streams to designate the appropriate riparian protection measures. The requirement of completing an operational field survey will end once there is an approved flow duration model sufficient for regulatory purposes. Once an approved flow duration model is available, State Forest staff can use the modelled approach for classifying streams and can perform a field survey following ODFW protocols and workflows to verify and/or correct the modeled flow duration where discrepancies are discovered.

Restoration Goals and Identification Process: The overarching principles for fish habitat restoration are described in the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan. There are stream enhancement opportunities identified in association with some sales in this Annual Operations Plan. Before determining if these potential projects will go into a full planning process, more field review is needed. The ODF Aquatic and Riparian Specialist will be consulted to help identify these candidates and may consult with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fish biologists as needed.

Potential Stream Projects may be associated with the following Timber Sales:

- Pole in One

Other Planned Projects to improve aquatic areas within the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operations Plan:

- Continue conducting hydrologic connectivity surveys and mitigating items discovered during this process.

Restoration accomplishments are reported to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board using the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory electronic filing process and reported by ODF annually in our report to the counties, Board of Forestry, and Department of State Lands.

### **Land Exchange**

There are no active land exchange projects for this Annual Operations Plan.

### **Law Enforcement and Public Safety**

Currently the district participates in a Cooperative Law Enforcement program in Linn County and Marion County in cooperation with other private timber companies and adjacent public landowners.

### **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. The permit fee for personal firewood cutting is \$20 for two cords. Permits are issued for a period of three weeks. Firewood cutting is only allowed outside of fire season. The district typically sells 50-75 woodcutting permits each year. Firewood permits will not be issued where there is a public use closure on the Santiam State Forest.

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

The North Cascade District offers commercial Miscellaneous Forest Products permits for forest products including but not limited to mushrooms, vine maple, and salal. More information can be found on available Special Forest Products at the department's website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/Pages/specialforestproducts.aspx>

The district also issues free personal use permits, consistent with Northwest Oregon Area policy. Gathering of these products is allowed provided that the products and quantities are not removed or exceeded as outlined in Oregon Revised Statute 164.813. No personal use permits will be issued where there is a public use closure on the Santiam State Forest.

### **Grants**

ODF received funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant. As part of this grant, pre-commercial thinning and invasive weed treatments will be accomplished to increase the health, vigor and resiliency of selected young stands in the State Forests. A tool has been developed to help prioritize the backlog of stands across all State Forest lands that would benefit from this thinning. Areas to be included in this grant funded work will be identified once the tool is finished this fall. As such, pre-commercial thinning acres resulting from this grant are reflected in the district Summary Table A-4 in Grant Funded Activities. Pre-commercial thinning on identified areas may start as soon as May 2026. The Invasive weed treatments portion of the grant was finalized in FY26. Invasive weed treatment resulting from this grant are also reflected in the district Summary Table A-4. Similar to pre-commercial thinning, invasive weed treatment may start as soon as May 2026, as grant funds have been received.

## **PLANNING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Below are the significant district-level planning projects currently scheduled for commencement, completion, or both in Fiscal Year 2027.

### **Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Resources**

All of the operations will be reviewed against the State Historic Preservation Office and General Land Office databases for potential impact to cultural resources. All of the operations will be shared with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon.

### **Forest Inventory**

The Information Unit will be updating the forest inventory in Fiscal Year 2027 by incorporating new ground data measured in partnership with the USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis program and developing new modeling approaches for the Enhanced Forest Inventory. Updates this year will focus on timely updates to the inventory after harvest operations or delayed post-fire mortality using remote sensing imagery and monitoring approaches for Forest Management Plan and draft Habitat Conservation Plan commitments.

### **Wildlife**

#### Northern Spotted Owl Surveys

For the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operations Plan, the District will continue the northern spotted owl survey program to comply with federal and state Endangered Species Acts and contribute to NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan goals. Survey requirements are determined in accordance with *ODF Northern Spotted Owl Operational Policies*, November 2017. If ODF obtains a Habitat Conservation Plan these policies will be re-evaluated.

#### Species of Concern Wildlife

The district will continue to screen forest management operations against several wildlife databases to identify potential conflicts with Species of Concern listed in the District 2025 Implementation Plan. In 2023, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife released a new mapping tool that identifies Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas that include recommendations to facilitate wildlife movement. ODF and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will work together to determine how these mapped areas will be incorporated into the upcoming long-range planning processes.

### **Threatened and Endangered Plants**

The district will screen forest management operations against known locations of sensitive plant species listed under state or federal Endangered Species Acts using publicly available databases including the Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species of Oregon iNaturalist Project managed by the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center. Sensitive plant species lists were provided in the District 2025 Implementation Plan and are updated in consultation with the Oregon Department of Agriculture Native Plant Conservation Program.

## Research and Monitoring

The North Cascade District will assist in a variety of research and monitoring projects in Fiscal Year 2027. Examples include:

- The district cooperates with Oregon State University on a study to help determine the abundance of the Oregon Slender Salamander and other terrestrial salamanders on the western slopes of the Cascade Range. The study was initially designed to help determine if there is a significant difference in the amount of down-woody debris, the Oregon Slender Salamander's primary habitat, pre- and post-harvest. This cooperative study was originally supposed to last 5 years, which ended in 2020. The study was extended in 2021 and transitioned to determining occupancy of stands pre- and post-wildfire in 2024. The study has now been completed and the district is waiting to receive the results of the study design and utilize them for analysis on future planning.
- In fall 2024, ODF supported beaver activity monitoring for targeted stream reaches on the district that overlapped the North Santiam Beaver Emphasis Area. This work supports the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 3-Year Beaver Action Plan. For fall 2025, the third round of beaver activity surveys will focus on a sub-set of reaches to identify habitat restoration potential through continued collaboration with the BLM Northwest District, Forest Service Willamette National Forest Detroit Ranger District, and private industrial landowners.
- United States Geological Survey has been given a permit to install monitoring equipment on Sardine Creek on the Santiam State Forest. Stream gages will measure precipitation, velocity, and stage as part of the United States Geological Survey post-burn monitoring program. The data are posted online in real time at
  - <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/14181350/>
- The North Cascades Douglas-fir Assisted Migration trial by the Northwest Tree Improvement Cooperative is testing for genetic factors that may make seed sources more climate resilient. A progeny site was planted on the North Cascade District in Fiscal Year 2023 and will have ongoing data collected.
- Researchers at the US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station are studying planted seedlings from different climate regions at different densities to test for climate adaptations as part of the Experimental Network for Assisted Migration and Establishment Silviculture (ENAMES). Reforestation plots were planted on the North Cascade District in Fiscal Year 2025 and will have ongoing data collected.
- Researchers with the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement have monitored streams on the district as part of a long-term study on the cumulative effects of post-fire riparian forest management on vegetation structure and diversity across fire severity and land ownership.
- 

## Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program

In Fiscal Year 2027, Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program staff will be working on the following planning efforts.

- Support the State Forest Division's Forest Management Plan work, Habitat Conservation Plan work and district Annual Operations Plan development and implementation.
- Recreation Standards Manual development continues to be an on-going Recreation, Education, and Interpretation project (ex. fire pits, information boards, picnic tables, site signs, etc.).

- The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program continues to assess and update spatial data for recreation trails and facilities to improve delivery of information to both internal and external stakeholders.

### **Other Planning Operations**

- In conjunction with the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program, the district will provide input and context to recreation planning.
- The district will also continue to participate in Forest Management Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan reviews as needed.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

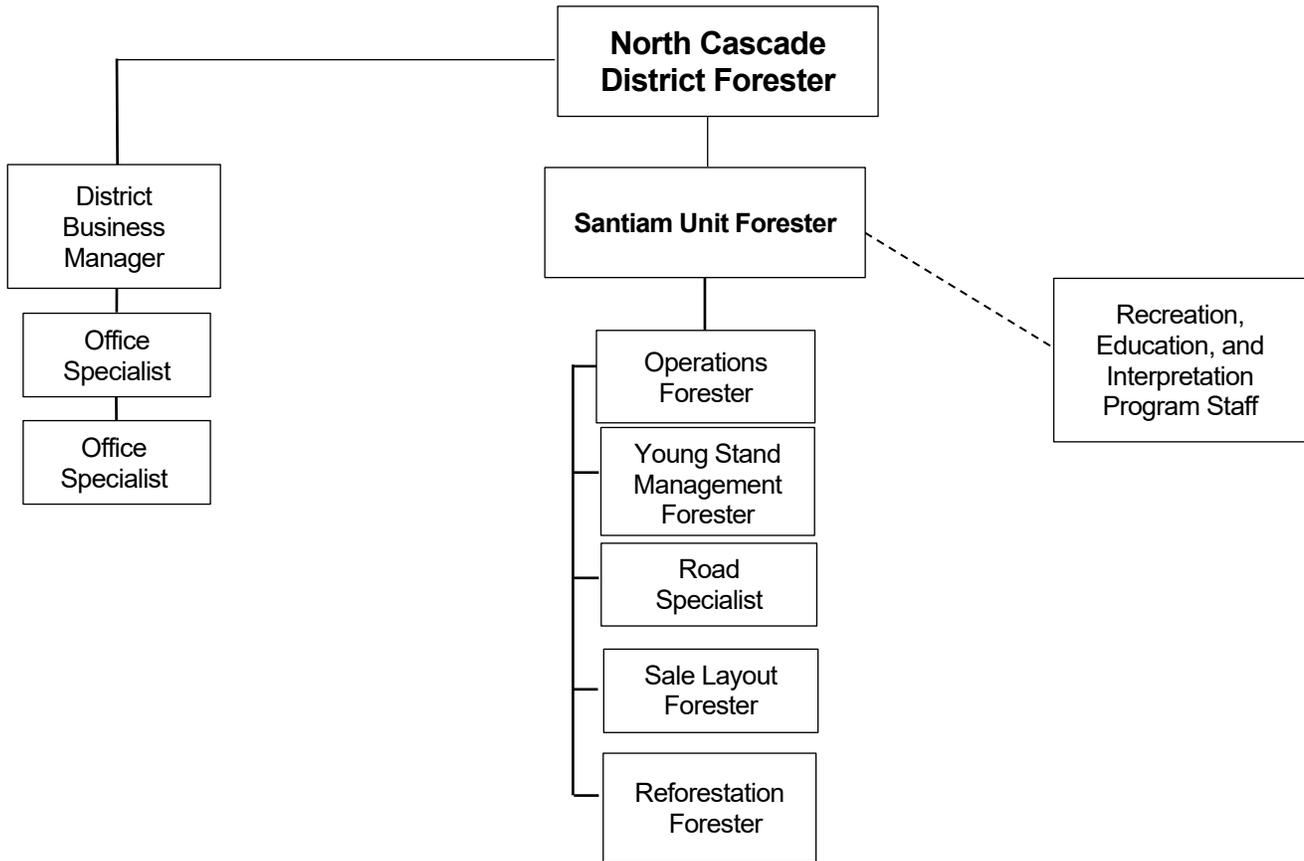
The Recreation, Education & Interpretation Program offers various interpretation and educational programs and services on the State Forest system, with primary offerings featured at the Tillamook Forest Center, located at milepost 22 on the Wilson River Highway (Highway 6). The Tillamook Forest Center is ODF's only visitors' center, and while located on the Tillamook District, it serves as a hub for public education on forest-related topics, active forest management, fire prevention messaging, agency wide initiatives, and general information about the variety of recreational opportunities available on state forests, while also offering meaningful interpretive programs to help promote a culture of forest stewardship. The Tillamook Forest Center continues to host many school groups, family activities, and other forest visitors, and is open March through November annually.

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program is also actively engaged in additional community outreach and engagement efforts to raise awareness about the Program itself and the many benefits provided by the recreational and educational opportunities available on state forest lands. It should be noted that the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program staff is relatively small and gratefully depends on the significant investments made by long-standing and committed volunteers, use-community partnerships, and generous donations to the Program's nonprofit funding partner, the State Forests Trust of Oregon, to help maintain and sustain its existing services and infrastructure to the public.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

There are 5 permanent positions whose full-time function is to manage State Forest land on the district. In addition, the district is supported by the NW Oregon Area Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program as well as the Division Planning and Operations Team. All are responsible for implementing the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operations Plan. The State Forest Unit is responsible for ensuring that all management approaches, activities, and projects for timber marketing, road management and young stand management are designed to meet the goals, strategies, and objectives of the Forest Management Plan, Implementation Plan, annual operations plans, and Recreation Plan. The sales and projects are coordinated across the district and with the NW Oregon Area and Division Teams from the development of the annual operations plan to the final sale administration for consistency within and between units to meet common goals.

# North Cascade District State Forest Organization Chart



## **APPENDICES**

### **A. Summary Tables**

1. Harvest Operations – Financial Summary
2. Harvest Operations – Forest Resource Summary
3. Forest Road Management Summary
4. Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary
5. Recreation Management Summary

### **B. Vicinity Maps**

1. Harvest Operations Vicinity Map
2. Recreation Facilities Vicinity Map
3. Recreation Projects Vicinity Map

### **C. Consultations with Other State Agencies**

This appendix summarizes the results of consultations with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and other agencies as appropriate.

### **D. Public Comment Process**

This appendix describes the results of the public comment process of this Annual Operations Plan.

### **E. Pre-Operations Reports**

Pre-Operations Reports are available on the ODF website.

### **F. Forest Land Management Classification**

### **G. Landscape Design**

## **Appendix A – Summary Tables**

- **Table A-1: Commercial Forest Management Operations - Financial Summary**
- **Table A-2: Commercial Forest Management Operations – Forest Resource Summary**
- **Table A-3: Forest Roads Summary**
- **Table A-4: Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary**
- **Table A-5: Recreation Management – Financial Summary**

**TIMBER HARVEST OPERATIONS - FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

District: North Cascade

Fiscal Year: 2027

Date: 03/24/2026

Primary Operation	Fund %		County	Sale Quarter <sup>1</sup>	Net Acres		Volume (MMBF)			Value		
	BOF	CSL			Partial Cut	Clear-cut	Con-ifer	Hard-woods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net
Enterprise	100%	0%	Marion (100%)	4	0	167	3.3	0.0	3.3	\$1,336,000	\$108,578	\$1,227,422
Left Shoo	100%	0%	Clackamas (100%)	1	0	75	1.5	0.0	1.5	\$600,000	\$88,964	\$511,036
Little Rock Divide	100%	0%	Linn (100%)	3	0	114	1.8	0.0	1.8	\$592,800	\$54,192	\$538,608
Pole in One	99%	1%	Linn (100%)	2	217	2	3.4	0.0	3.4	\$3,019,500	\$69,245	\$2,950,255
<b>Sub-total:</b>					<b>217</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>\$ 5,548,300</b>	<b>\$ 320,979</b>	<b>\$ 5,227,321</b>
<b>Project WOC Sub-total:</b>											<b>\$ 319,446</b>	
<b>Total:</b>					<b>217</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>\$ 5,548,300</b>	<b>\$ 640,424</b>	<b>\$ 4,907,876</b>

Alternate Operation	Fund %		County	Sale Quarter <sup>1</sup>	Net Acres		Volume (MMBF)			Value		
	BOF	CSL			Partial Cut	Clear-cut	Con-ifer	Hard-woods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net
Back in the Saddle	100%	0%	Marion (100%)	ALT	0	66	1.0	0.0	1.0	\$204,000	\$31,010	\$172,990
Lucky #7	100%	0%	Linn (100%)	ALT	0	81	1.3	0.0	1.3	\$453,600	\$46,209	\$407,391
Kaupperhead	100%	0%	Linn (100%)	ALT	0	87	2.8	0.0	2.8	\$1,531,200	\$31,286	\$1,499,914
Jade Cascade	100%	0%	Marion (100%)	ALT	0	90	2.9	0.0	2.9	\$1,440,000	\$116,708	\$1,323,292
<b>Total:</b>					<b>0</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>\$3,628,800</b>	<b>\$225,212</b>	<b>\$3,403,587</b>

<sup>1</sup>The sale quarter is when the timber sale contract is intended to be sent to Salem for processing. It is anticipated that the timber sale will be sold in the following quarter.

**PRIMARY HARVEST OPERATIONS - FOREST RESOURCE SUMMARY**

District: North Cascade

Fiscal Year 2027

Date: 03/24/2026

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	Current LYR/OFS Structures <sup>2</sup>	Landscape Design LYR/OFS <sup>3</sup>	Habitat Conservation Area (HCA)	Install/Replace Culverts on Fish Bearing Streams	Road/Trail Construction Inside RCA/HCA	Point of Diversion (Domestic Water)	Potential Stream Habitat Improvement <sup>4</sup>	Within Aquatic Anchor	Within Terrestrial Anchor	Operating within a NSO Provincial Circle (BA Required)	Operating within a MMMA (BA Required)	Murrelet Timber Sale Screening Process Required (MM Policy 2.27)	T&E Fish Adjacent to Harvest Unit / Haul Route <sup>5</sup>	T&E/SOC Species (Includes Plants)	Geotechnical - Additional Review Required	Recreation Sites	Scenic Resources	Adjacent Private Landowner (Shared Property line)	Other Resources or Issues
Enterprise		X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	
Left Shoo		X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	
Little Rock Divide		X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	X	
Pole in One		-	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	

**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	Current LYR/OFS Structures <sup>2</sup>	Landscape Design LYR/OFS <sup>3</sup>	Habitat Conservation Area (HCA)	Install/Replace Culverts on Fish Bearing / Perennial Streams	Road/Trail Construction Inside RCA/HCA	Point of Diversion (Domestic Water)	Potential Stream Habitat Improvement <sup>4</sup>	Within Aquatic Anchor	Within Terrestrial Anchor	Operating within a NSO Provincial Circle (BA Required)	Operating within a MMMA (BA Required)	Murrelet Timber Sale Screening Process Required (MM Policy 2.27)	T&E Fish Adjacent to Harvest Unit / Haul Route <sup>5</sup>	T&E/SOC Species (Includes Plants)	Geotechnical - Additional Review Required	Recreation Sites	Scenic Resources	Adjacent Private Landowner (Shared Property line)	Other Resources or Issues
Back in the Saddle		X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	
Lucky #7		X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	
Kaupperhead		-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	
Jade Cascade		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 in consultation 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.

**FOREST ROADS SUMMARY**

District: North Cascade

Fiscal Year: 2027

Date: 03/24/2026

Primary Operations	Construction		Improvement, Rock, and/or Maintenance		Road Vacating		Other Projects	Total Project Costs	Gross Value of Operation	Total Cost as a percent of Gross Value	Comments
	Miles	Cost	Miles	Cost	Miles	Cost					
Enterprise	0.50	\$57,402	9.77	\$51,176	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$108,578	\$1,336,000	8.1%	Improve KC510, KC410, BC500 Roads + construct 4 spurs, 9 landings
Left Shoo	0.58	\$70,190	9.61	\$18,774	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$88,964	\$600,000	14.8%	Grade BC500 , BC600, Panther Tie + 8-pipes + 7 landings + clean inlets+new spur
Little Rock Divide	0.03	\$14,616	2.39	\$39,576	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$54,192	\$592,800	9.1%	Construct 4-landings + 2 spurs and top rock spurs, add 2-pipes
Pole in One	0.46	\$54,182	4.98	\$15,063	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$69,245	\$3,019,500	2.3%	Construct 11-landing + 3 spurs, Grade and Patch Rock, Curve Widening
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>\$196,390</b>	<b>26.75</b>	<b>\$124,589</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$320,979</b>	<b>\$5,548,300</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	
<b>Sub-total WOC (see below)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>\$141,877</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$177,569</b>	<b>\$319,446</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>\$196,390</b>	<b>117.6</b>	<b>\$266,466</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$177,569</b>	<b>\$640,424</b>	<b>\$5,548,300</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	

**Alternate Operations**

Back in the Saddle	0	\$24,040	5.2	\$6,970	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$31,010	\$204,000	15.2%	Construct 8 landings
Lucky #7	0.09	\$19,165	4.5	\$27,044	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$46,209	\$453,600	10.2%	Add 2-pipes, full rock 2-spurs , 4-landings
Kaupperhead	0.31	\$26,879	3.13	\$4,407	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$31,286	\$1,531,200	2.0%	9-landings, 2-spurs
Jade Cascade	1.15	\$102,538	2.88	\$14,170	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$116,708	\$1,440,000	8.1%	8-landings 4-new spur, lift of rock on exisitng spur
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>\$172,622</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>\$52,590</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$225,212</b>	<b>\$3,628,800</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	

**Road Projects to be Completed as a Work Order Contract**

Operation	Construction		Improvement, Rock, and/or Maintenance		Road Vacating		Other Projects	Total Project Costs	Funding Source	Comments
	Miles	Cost	Miles	Cost	Miles	Cost				
Roadside Spraying	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ 52,569.00	\$ 52,569.00		154.49 Miles
Kirk Creek Road Improvement	0	\$ -	8.22	\$ 25,708.00	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,708.00		Open roads to Enterprise Unit 1 and 2, movein and brush (2 machines)
North Block Road Improvement	0	\$ -	32.8	\$ 50,397.75	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,397.75		Horse Creek, BC700, BC720, Panther Rock, Rhody, BC Mainline, CF400
South Block Road Improvement	0	\$ -	49.8	\$ 65,770.75	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,770.75		NRC800, MP800, Snake Creek, SRC 100, Wagon Road, Halfway Cabin, Circle Bridge
Mad 7 Rock Crushing	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 125,000.00		MC500 Pit/SM200 Pit - Stockpile 9,000 cy (6,000 cy 1.5" and 3,000 cy of 6")
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>90.82</b>	<b>\$ 141,876.50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 177,569.00</b>	<b>\$ 319,445.50</b>		

## REFORESTATION AND YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District: North Cascade

Fiscal Year: 2027

Date: 03/24/2026

Projects Conducted by ODF Staff or Contractors	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District	
	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	BOF Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	CSL Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost
Site Prep - Broadcast Burning	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Site Prep - Pile Burning	256	\$5.00	\$1,280	0	\$0.00	\$0	256	\$1,280
Site Prep - Mechanical	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Site Prep - Chemical - Aerial	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Site Prep - Chemical - Ground	360	\$184.00	\$66,240	0	\$0.00	\$0	360	\$66,240
Initial Planting	360	\$200.00	\$72,000	0	\$0.00	\$0	360	\$72,000
Interplanting	75	\$140.00	\$10,500	0	\$0.00	\$0	75	\$10,500
Underplanting	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Tree Protection - Barriers	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Tree Protection - Direct Control	360	\$100.00	\$36,000	0	\$0.00	\$0	360	\$36,000
Release - Chemical - Aerial	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Release - Chemical - Ground**	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Release - Manual	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Precommercial Thinning	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Stocking Surveys*	525	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	525	\$0
Invasive Species	49	\$75.00	\$3,675	0	\$0.00	\$0	49	\$3,675
Other (Tube Maintenance)			\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$189,695</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,985</b>	<b>\$189,695</b>
* Work to be completed by ODF staff; cost are for materials only								
**Included in grant funding table as 1st priority for funding source.								

Projects Conducted by Santiam Correctional Facility (costs are for materials only)	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
Site Prep - Broadcast Burning	0	\$0.00	\$0		\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Site Prep - Pile Burning	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Site Prep - Mechanical	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Initial Planting	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Interplanting	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Underplanting	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Tree Protection - Barriers	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Tree Protection - Direct Control	78	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	78	\$0
Release - Manual	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Precommercial Thinning	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Invasive Species	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Other (Tube Maintenance)	73	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	73	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Grant Funded Activities	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District		Funding
Project	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost	
Release - Chemical - Ground	365	\$184.00	\$67,160			\$0	365	\$67,160	
			\$0			\$0	0	\$0	
			\$0			\$0	0	\$0	

**RECREATION SITE MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

District: North Cascade

Fiscal Year: 2027

Date: 03/24/2026

Project	Construction Projects		Improvement		Operations &		Total Costs	Comments
	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)		
<b>Campgrounds</b>								
Vault Toilet Pumping					\$6,250		\$ 6,250.00	
Garbage Service							\$ -	
Miscellaneous Maintenance					\$800		\$ 800.00	Well testing
<b>Trailheads/ Day Use Areas</b>								
Vault Toilet Pumping					\$2,750		\$ 2,750.00	
Garbage Service							\$ -	
Miscellaneous Maintenance							\$ -	
							\$ -	
<b>Other Operations</b>								
District Compound REI Charges					\$2,500		\$ 2,500.00	Garbage
							FDI Total	\$ 12,300.00
							Other Total	\$ -
							<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 12,300.00</b>

\*A portion of the motorized recreation costs are funded through OPRD ATV Transfer Fund.

**RECREATION TRAIL MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

Project	Miles	Construction Projects		Improvement		Operations &		Total Costs	Comments
		ODF (\$)	Other (\$)	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)		
<b>Non-Motorized</b>									
Catamount Trail Construction	0.16							\$ -	
<b>Motorized</b>									
								FDI Total	\$ -
								Other Total	\$ -
								<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

\*A portion of the motorized recreation costs are funded through OPRD ATV Transfer Fund.

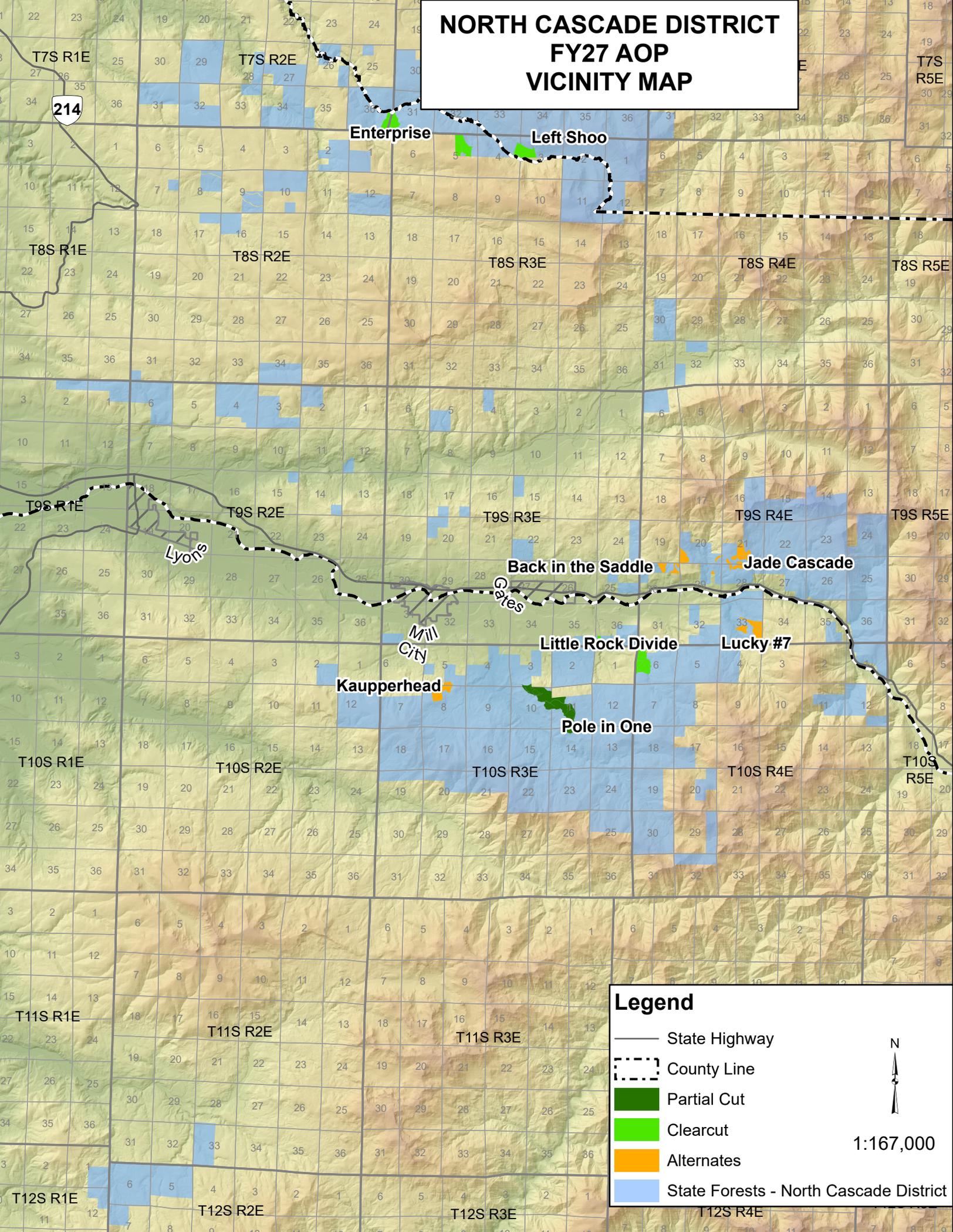
**RECREATION GRANT MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

Grant	Status	Award Date (actual or anticipated)	Recreation Leadership Approval	Goals/Purpose	Funding		Project Total	Comments
					Grant (\$)	Match (\$)		
							\$0	
							FDI Total	\$0
							Match Total	\$0
							<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## **Appendix B – Vicinity Maps**

- **Harvest Operations Vicinity Map**
- **Recreation Facilities Vicinity Map**
- **Recreation Projects Vicinity Map**

# NORTH CASCADE DISTRICT FY27 AOP VICINITY MAP



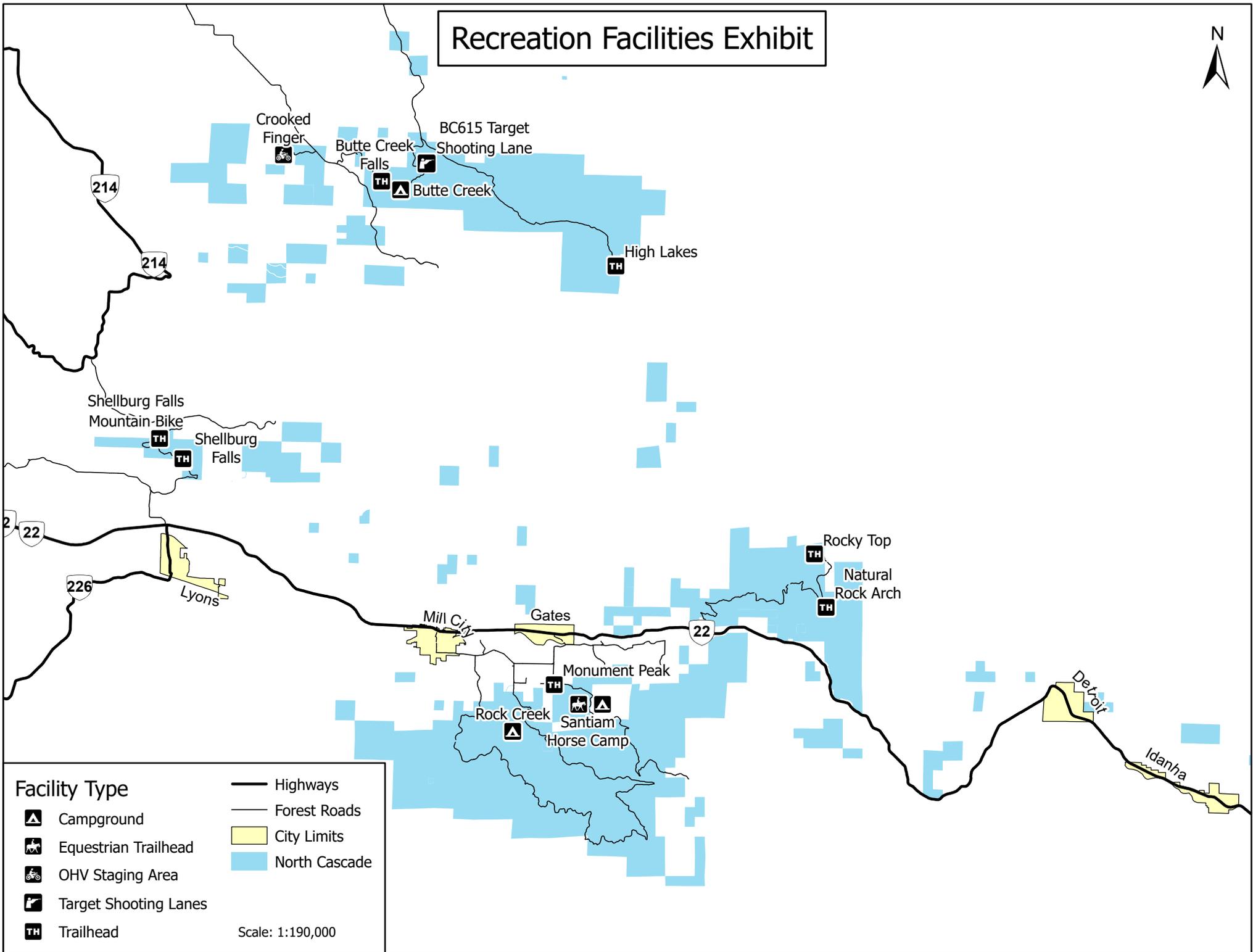
## Legend

- State Highway
- County Line
- Partial Cut
- Clearcut
- Alternates
- State Forests - North Cascade District



1:167,000

# Recreation Facilities Exhibit



## Facility Type

- Campground
- Equestrian Trailhead
- OHV Staging Area
- Target Shooting Lanes
- Trailhead

- Highways
- Forest Roads
- City Limits
- North Cascade

Scale: 1:190,000

# FY2027 RECREATION PROJECT VICINITY MAP



- AOP Planned Recreation Project - Trails
- Highways
- Forest Roads
- ODF District Boundary
- City Limits
- County Line
- State Forests



Scale: 1:214,000

## **Appendix C – Consultations with Other State Agencies**

### **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Quality and Division of State Lands:**

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists, Department of Environmental Quality specialists and Division of State Lands forester were provided with the Summary Document and Pre-Operations Reports for review. A cooperator/specialist meeting was held to address questions and concerns.

The following are paraphrased comments received during the meeting (in **bold**) and the response from ODF (in *italics*).

**Look for opportunities to use native forage/forb specific seed when vacating dirt roads or seeding areas of disturbed soil.**

*ODF will look for opportunities to incorporate forage specific seed during sale layout and admin and will work with ODFW to identify the appropriate seed mix.*

**Look for opportunities to increase species diversity by planting alder, maple, madrone, oak and other hardwoods during reforestation.**

*Hardwood leave tree selections and planting prescriptions are developed based on site conditions and desired stand conditions for each area. District staff and biologists will collaborate to determine where these species should be incorporated to meet objectives.*

**Look for opportunities to partner with ODFW to create permanent meadow habitat.**

*ODF will screen non-production areas and areas that may already be encumbered that meet criteria provided by ODFW for potential meadow habitat creation. ODF will work with ODFW to evaluate any identified areas for potential as meadow habitat projects during the Implementation Plan development as part of the new Forest Management Plan ODF that is currently being developed.*

**Look for opportunities to create willow flats for beaver.**

*The Riparian Conservation Areas within the Habitat Conservation Plan are no harvest areas. However, if an opening were to be created naturally by wind, fire, disease or other event, willow could be considered for planted within appropriate sites.*

**Would like to see more fire science/management on the landscape.**

*ODF will work with ODFW and the Tribes to collaborate on options and evaluate more fire science/management on the landscape during the Implementation Plan development as part of the new Forest Management Plan ODF that is currently being developed.*

## **Appendix D – Public Comment Process**

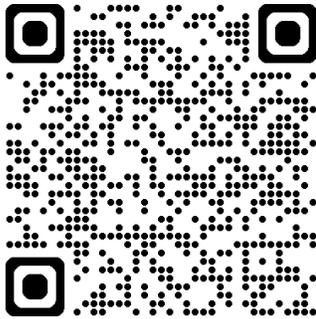
The Oregon Department of Forestry issued a Press Release in April 2026, announcing a formal 45-day public comment period for the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operations Plans from April 3, 2026 through May 18, 2026.

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

## Appendix E – Pre-Operations Reports

There are several ways to access the documents and maps that have been developed for the FY2027 Annual Operations Plan. These options include the following:

- Do a google search for ODF, click on “State Forests”, scroll down halfway down the web page to “Management & planning” then expand using the plus sign next to Annual Operations Plan and click on the link.
- Enter this link into the internet search tool and hit enter.  
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/aops.aspx>
- Utilize the QR Code below to take you directly to the websites using a mobile device. Open the Camera app on your phone. Hold your phone so that the QR code appears in view. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.



**ODF State Forest Plans.** Click on the QR code to the left. Scroll down the web page.

Use this link for general information on the Annual Operations Plans, public comment period, District Summary Documents, individual sale and project pre-operation reports and when the annual operations plans have been approved, a link to the summary of public comments received and the agency response.



**Map Viewer:** Use this link for spatial locations of the proposed forest projects (recreation, roads and timber harvest) which contain links to their individual pre operation reports.

Zoom into the location you are interested in. As you zoom in on the map, forest operations will appear. Click on the forest operation for additional information to display.

## **Appendix F – Forest Land Management Classification**

### **Modification Notice**

No modifications are proposed with the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operations Plan.

## **Appendix G – Landscape Design**

### **Implementation Plan Minor Modification Notice**

No modifications are proposed with the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operations Plan.