



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Forestry

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June 30, 2025



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

To: Dave Larson, Southern Oregon Area Director
From: Ole Buch, Western Lane District Forester

CC: Michael Wilson, State Forests Division Chief
Nick Palazzotto, State Forests Deputy Division Chief
Colleen Kiser, State Forests Planning Manager

Re: Information Item – Approved Annual Operations Plan for Fiscal Year 2026

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 State Forests Annual Operations Plan (AOP) for the Western Lane District has been completed. During my review of this plan, I have found that it conforms to the Oregon Forest Practices Act and is consistent with the 2010 Northwest and Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plans, the 2025 Western Lane District Veneta and Southwest Unit Implementation Plans (IP), draft Habitat Conservation Plan, state forest operational policies and strategies, Stewardship Agreement, and the FY 2026 State Forests budget instructions.

During its preparation, this plan was reviewed by technical specialists from within the department and biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Information on the consultations with other agencies can be found in Appendix C. The draft AOP also underwent a 45-day public comment period. All comments were carefully considered through the lens of aligning with State Forests current plans and policies and incorporated into the documents where appropriate. Some comments that are more specific to operations will be further considered during implementation. All changes that have occurred since the public comment period ended are summarized in Appendix D of the AOP.

As prepared, this AOP consists of 11.4 million board feet (MMBF) of harvest volume. This volume will be achieved through 270 acres of regeneration harvest. There are 4 primary operations that are planned to be auctioned and 3 alternate operations within this plan. The operations are estimated to generate gross revenues of approximately \$6,125,100 and net revenues of \$5,809,975 (\$5,205,350 Lane County and \$604,600 Douglas County).

Reforestation and young stand management activities and investments are aligned with FMP objectives and budget considerations.

Approval of this plan does not constitute final approval of individual project details. Individual operations are subject to additional review processes including public comment considerations, adjacent landowner engagement, and additional field review at the district and division staff level before implementation. The planned amount and location of all management activities may be adjusted and modified to account for any significant changes identified during implementation such as market variables, site specific conditions, and discovery of threatened and endangered species. The alternate sales in this AOP may be used to replace the primary sales that cannot be completed as planned. Actual revenue realized from this AOP could change due to market fluctuations. Harvest operations and the associated project work provide an accurate picture of what will be designed and prepared for contract in FY 2026. Due to the time lag with contract duration, most of the actual harvest operations with associated revenues will not occur for a period of one to two years beyond the end of the fiscal year. Forest management activities such as reforestation and recreation projects will occur in FY 2026.

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

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Pages/Reports.aspx>

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ole Buch', written over a horizontal line.

Ole Buch
Western Lane District Forester

WESTERN LANE DISTRICT 2026 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN



WESTERN LANE DISTRICT

Fiscal Year 2026 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

OVERVIEW

This plan describes the activities and outcomes that Oregonians can expect to see on Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) managed lands located in Lane, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson and Josephine Counties for fiscal year 2026. The state forest lands on the Western Lane District are actively managed forests, 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). We strive to manage the forest sustainably, so that the benefits from the forest can be delivered into perpetuity. Forest habitat is expected to develop so the forest has a mixture of habitat types for all of Oregon's native wildlife.

Managing a public forest has its challenges. In addition to the challenges of providing the opportunities described above, the forest is expected to be financially self-supporting. About two-thirds of the revenues from 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, research and monitoring, road maintenance and stream habitat 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, we have consulted with ODF's wildlife biologists, aquatic and riparian specialist, geotechnical engineer, road engineer, as well as fish and wildlife biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The plan has undergone a 45-day public comment period. The operations were 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 2026 fiscal year.

A short summary of activities planned for the coming year:

- Planting approximately 117,000 seedlings on approximately 270 acres.
- Conducting vegetation management activities on approximately 660 acres to ensure the survival and growth of young stands.
- Continuing early detection, rapid response' strategy for invasive species control.
- Preparing timber sale contracts for sale that propose harvest of 9.6 million board feet through clearcuts generating an estimated net revenue of \$5.2 million in the Veneta Unit (Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan) and 1.8 million board feet through clearcuts generating an estimated net revenue of \$0.6 million in the Southwest Unit (Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan). No harvest is planned for the Coos Unit in fiscal year 2026.
- Constructing 0.5 miles of new road and improving, rocking, and/or maintaining 23.4 miles of existing road.
- Providing personal firewood cutting opportunities to the members of the surrounding community.
- Conducting surveys for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets.
- Protecting streams and water resources through a series of buffers and seasonal restrictions.
- Habitat development projects such as retaining green trees in clearcut areas, and leaving downed wood and snags, all for wildlife benefits in harvest areas and future forests.

TABLES OF CONTENTS

Summary.....	3
INTRODUCTION	7
INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS.....	8
Timber Harvest Operations.....	8
Overview of Timber Harvest Operations	8
Harvest Operations within Habitat Conservation Areas	10
Summary of Timber Harvest Operations by Unit	12
Forest Roads Management.....	14
Overview.....	14
Road Construction.....	15
Road Improvement.....	15
Road Maintenance	15
Road Vacating	16
Road Access Management	16
Hydrologic Connectivity	16
Work Order Contracts	17
Roadside Vegetation Management	17
Land Surveying	17
Young Stand Management	17
Seedlings / Nurseries	18
Site Preparation	18
Planting.....	19
Tree Protection.....	19
Vegetation Management – Release Treatments	19
Pre-Commercial Thinning.....	20

Stocking Surveys	20
Invasive Species	20
Recreation Management	21
Overview of Recreation Management	21
Facilities.....	21
Trails	21
Other Integrated Forest Management Projects.....	22
Aquatic & Riparian Management.....	22
Land Exchange	23
Firewood Cutting Program.....	23
Non-Timber Forest Products.....	24
Grants	24
Planning	24
Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Resources	24
Forest Inventory	24
Wildlife Surveys.....	24
Research and Monitoring	25
Other Planning Operations	25
Public Information and Education	25
Administration	26
APPENDICES	28
Appendix A – Summary Tables.....	29
Appendix B – Vicinity Maps	35
Appendix C – Consultations with Other State Agencies	38
Appendix D – Public Comment Process.....	39
Appendix E – Pre-Operations Reports.....	40

Appendix F – Forest Land Management Classification	41
Appendix G – Landscape Design.....	42

INTRODUCTION

This annual operations plan outlines activities on state-owned forest land managed by the Western Lane District for fiscal year 2026, which begins July 1, 2025 and ends June 30, 2026. Lands managed by the Western Lane District are divided into three Units: the Veneta Unit, the Coos Unit and the Southwest Unit. This document describes how the activities and projects undertaken by the district will achieve the goals, strategies, and objectives of the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan - Veneta Unit, The Elliott State Forest Management Plan – Coos Unit, the Southwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan – Southwest Unit, the draft Habitat Conservation Plan, state forest operational policies and strategies, Stewardship Agreement, the 2025 Western Lane District – Veneta Unit Implementation Plan and the 2025 Western Lane District – Southwest Unit Implementation Plan. Please refer to the individual Implementation Plans for 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 2026, Appendix F describes any modifications to the Forest Land Management Classification System. Appendix G describes any modifications to the Landscape Design.*

The proposed harvest operations and activities are planned to be prepared during the Fiscal Year 2026 time period. Actual on-the-ground operations will likely not occur during Fiscal Year 2026 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 2026.

A 45-day public comment period was held from April 18, 2025 through June 3, 2025. The District Forester has reviewed and considered all comments received before approving this plan. A summary of changes that have taken place within the documents since the public review period has been added to Appendix D.

Accomplishments of forest management activities that 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 District Implementation Plans.

**The State Forests' individual district annual reports are available on the Oregon Dept. 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 will be 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 2026 Annual Operations Plan is estimated to produce 9.6 million board feet in volume, and generate net revenues of \$5,205,350 in the Veneta Unit and 1.8 million board feet in volume and generate net revenues of \$604,600 in the Southwest Unit. No primary harvests are planned in the Coos Unit during 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.

The goal is to achieve the average of the Annual Harvest Objective over the expected duration for the Implementation Plan. However, some events may result in an Annual Operations Plan volume that is farther from the Annual Harvest Objective target. These events may consist of, but are not limited to, storm damage, insect and/or disease outbreaks, prepared timber cruise results versus Annual Operations Plan volume estimates, timber market conditions or other significant events. Alternate timber sales included in the Annual Operations Plan may be sold as primary operations in response to any of these circumstances. In the instance where volume targets are achieved prior to all the primary sales being sold, one or more of the remaining primary sales may move into the following fiscal year, contributing to that year's annual volume objective.

Additional operations may produce timber volume for the district during the 2026 fiscal year but are not included in this Annual Operation 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 Forest 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 Objective¹. Volume is Million Board Feet

Unit	2025 Implementation Plan Objectives	Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan
Veneta	10	9.6
Southwest	0 - 2.2	1.8

¹Annual 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 are described in Chapter 4 of the Northwest Forest Management Plan and Southwest Forest Management Plan will be followed for the fiscal year 2026 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 Forest 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 Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan and Southwest Oregon State Forest 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 Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan and Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan strategy for hard snags is to manage for at least two per acre on average across the landscape. The strategy for down woody debris in the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan is to retain an average of 600 to 900 cubic feet of hard conifer logs (class 1 & 2) per acre during regeneration harvest. The Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan strategy for down woody debris is to retain an average of 250 to 350 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. Areas 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 normal harvest operations, retaining existing down wood, and leaving tops on ground yarding areas.

In addition to the leave tree strategies within the Forest Management Plans, all timber sales within fiscal year 2026 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 Forest Management Plan. Leave tree configuration will be determined during sale layout to ensure compliance with Forest 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.

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, given the size of Habitat Conservation Areas 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 multi-species 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 develop into suitable or highly suitable habitat for marbled murrelets or red tree voles and 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 Practice 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.

Fiscal Year 2026 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
Veneta Unit								
Primary	0	0	195	9.6	0	0	0	0
Alternate	0	0	191	9.6	0	0	0	0
Southwest Unit								
Primary	0	0	76	1.8	0	0	0	0
Alternate	0	0	114	2.3	0	0	0	0

Harvest Outside of Habitat Conservation Areas

The 195 acres of regeneration primary harvest planned within the Veneta Unit for fiscal year 2026 represents approximately one percent of the Veneta Unit. The 75 acres of regeneration primary harvest planned within the Southwest Unit for fiscal year 2026 represents approximately one percent of the Southwest Unit. The regeneration alternate harvests for both units are all located outside of Habitat Conservation Areas.

Harvest Inside of Habitat Conservation Areas

There are no primary or alternate harvests planned within the Habitat Conservation Areas during fiscal year 2026.

Refer to the attached Western Lane District Financial Summary Table (Appendix A, Table A-1) and vicinity map (Appendix B) for more detail.

Summary of Timber Harvest Operations by Unit

Since the Forest 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 3. Summary of Primary Timber Harvest Operations by Unit. All values are in net acres.

Unit	2026 Annual Operations Plan	
	Partial Cut	Clearcut
Veneta	0	195
Coos	0	0
Southwest	0	76
Totals	0	271

Veneta Unit

Jack Hayes: This is a 56-acre clearcut of 86 to 93-year-old Douglas-fir and big leaf maple trees. This stand was previously thinned in 1996. The current stand condition is Understory. Following the completion of the harvest, the unit will be planted with seedlings native to the geographic area.

Approximately 1.2 miles of road will be improved, rocked and/or maintained with this sale. No new roads will be constructed.

Nelson Nebulous (Alternate): This is a 110-acre clearcut of 85-year-old mixed conifer trees. Approximately 18 acres of the sale were thinned in 2009 with an additional 25 acres thinned in 1991. The current stand condition is both Understory (43 acres) and Layered (67 acres) stands. Following the completion of harvest, the units will be planted with seedlings native to the geographic area.

Approximately 0.7 miles of new road will be constructed and 1.6 miles of road will be improved, rocked and/or maintained with this sale.

Approximately 5 acres of this sale are located within the Knapp Creek northern spotted owl elevated baseline Thiessen. A habitat assessment prepared by an ODF wildlife biologist for this area was reviewed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 2024 as part of the fiscal year 2025 annual operations plan where they concurred that the sale has a low risk of incidental take of spotted owls.

Pitter Patter Addition: This is a 25-acre clearcut of 74-year-old Douglas-fir and red alder trees. The current condition of the stand is Understory. Following the completion of harvest, the unit will be planted with seedlings native to the geographic area.

Approximately 5.4 miles of road will be improved, rocked and/or maintained with this sale. No new road construction is expected.

Sit Back (Alternate): This is an 81-acre clearcut of 83 to 85-year-old Douglas-fir and mixed hardwood trees. The stands within this sale were thinned in 1999. The current stand condition is Understory. Following the completion of harvest, the unit will be planted with seedlings native to the geographic area.

Approximately 0.5 miles of new road will be constructed and 3.2 miles of road will be improved, rocked and/or maintained with this sale.

South Walton: This is a 114-acre clearcut of 89 to 94-year-old mixed conifer stands. The current condition of the sale is mostly Understory with 27 acres of Layered stands. The northern portion of the sale was commercially thinned in 1984. Following the completion of harvest, the unit will be planted with seedlings native to the geographic area.

Approximately 0.5 miles of new road will be constructed, 2.5 miles of road will be improved, rocked and/or maintained and 0.1 miles of road will be vacated which includes the removal 2 culverts located on a fish stream.

Coos Unit

There are no sales planned in this Unit in fiscal year 2026.

Southwest Unit

Wind Chime: This is a 76-acre clearcut of 78-year-old Douglas-fir and white fir trees. This stand was commercially thinned in 1999. The current stand condition is Understory. Following the completion of harvest, the unit will be planted with seedlings native to the geographic area.

Approximately 5.2 miles of road will be improved, rocked and/or maintained with this sale.

This sale is located within the Bear Windy northern spotted owl site. A biological assessment prepared by an ODF wildlife biologist for this area was reviewed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service where they concurred that the sale has low risk of incidental take of spotted owls.

Windy Gust (Alternate): This is a 114-acre clearcut of 60-year-old mixed conifer species. The stand was thinned in 1981. The current stand condition of the sale is Closed Single Canopy and Understory. Following the completion of harvest, the unit will be planted with seedlings native to the geographic area.

Approximately 0.2 miles of road will be constructed and 7.1 miles of road will be improved, rocked and/or maintained with this sale.

Approximately six acres of this sale is located within the Bear Windy northern spotted owl site. A biological assessment prepared by an ODF wildlife biologist for this area was reviewed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service where they concurred that the sale has low risk of incidental take of spotted owls.

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, Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan 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.

Road work in this Annual Operations Plan is planned to open up and improve old road spurs and improve haul routes for the fiscal year 2026 timber sales. This section describes the types of road management activities that will occur in fiscal year 2026 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 will consist of installing or replacing existing culverts and bridges, ditchline or cutbank improvements, or sidecast pull back and stabilization efforts.

Road Maintenance

Roads will be maintained as necessary to minimize the impact on natural resources, protect water quality and protect the investment made to the road infrastructure. Road

maintenance 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 maintenance can be accomplished through timber sale contracts, Work Order Contracts, or the State forests road crew. Emergency maintenance can also be accomplished by directly hiring contractors within a certain threshold. Maintenance is focused on ensuring proper drainage to prevent sediment from entering streams. Collector roads, and roads in active sale areas, need and get the most maintenance. Surface rock replacement is used during maintenance and is defined as adding additional surface rock to an already surfaced road to replace the rock worn down from road use

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.

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 2026 Annual Operations Plan:

- Road Maintenance – grant funded
- Roadside Vegetation Management

Roadside Vegetation Management

Roadside vegetation management protects the investment in roads 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, roadside vegetation surveys will be conducted to determine roadside vegetation management treatment needs for the fiscal year.

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. Land surveying may be necessary on the following sales:

- South Walton – approximately 0.5 mile, to be determined after further field review

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 Forest Management Plans and District Implementation Plans. 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 may occur in fiscal year 2026 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 2025 growing season.

Reforestation activities will be completed by using experienced contractors. These crews work on activities such as planting, inter-planting, tree protection, mechanical hand release, and noxious weed control.

Seedlings / Nurseries

In order to meet the goals of the Forest Management Plans, the State Forests Division 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 of slash that result from harvesting.
- 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: aurally 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 Forest Management Plans 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 Practice 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 wind storms, 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 Forest Management Plans 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 helping to prevent damage to newly planted trees.

Vegetation Management – Release Treatments

Vegetation management is done to reduce light, moisture or nutrient competition from 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 Forest Management Plans and the District Implementation Plans. 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 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, myrtle, and tanoak in the southwest, threaten to change the stand from conifer dominate to hardwood dominate. In this treatment, a 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

ODF has the responsibility of ensuring that the goals of the Forest Management Plans are met. Stocking surveys is 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.

Existing staff work together to identify appropriate steps they can take to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants. Knotweed, Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, Canadian thistle and false brome are the primary species known to exist in the District. Active control measures are being planned and prioritized for roadside and in-unit treatment.

Recreation Management

Overview of Recreation Management

ODF-managed land in the Veneta and Southwest Unit is scattered and not adjacent to areas of high recreational interest. However, the Veneta and Southwest Units have a low level of hunting, backroad driving, and personal firewood cutting. Timber sale activities increase forage for big game and grouse, increase firewood opportunities, and road building improves recreational access.

ODF-managed land in the Coos Unit is similar in that it is scattered. However, the majority of the managed land in the Coos Unit is adjacent to the Elliott State Research Forest which does have a moderate level of recreational use that includes; hunting, fishing, backroad driving, hiking, etc.

No recreation management is planned for fiscal year 2026.

Facilities

Currently, there are two developed recreational facilities on the Coos Unit and no developed recreational facilities on the Veneta or Southwest Unit. The two facilities on the Coos Unit include the Millicoma Interpretive Center and Camp Chinook. The Millicoma Interpretive Center is a Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program fish hatchery and educational outreach facility on the West Fork Millicoma River operated by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Salmonids, including chinook and steelhead are spawned, reared, and acclimated at this facility to support fishery programs. The center also provides a hands-on approach to learn about the salmon life cycle to schools and groups who visit the facility. A short forest trail is associated with Millicoma Interpretive Center for use by visitors.

Camp Chinook (adjacent to Millicoma Interpretive Center) is operated by the Boy Scouts of America who have received a permit to manage and improve the existing site.

Trails

There is approximately 0.5 miles of trail on ODF property as part of the 2.0 mile London Peak Trail in the Southwest Unit. This trail receives minimal to light usage by the public.

Motorized (Off-Highway Vehicles) Trails

No recognized Off-Highway Vehicles trails exist on ODF managed land in Western Lane District.

Non-Motorized Trails

There are no planned improvements of trails or trailheads in fiscal year 2026.

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 the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan and the Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan. 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.

Several strategies, described in the Forest Management Plans, 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 Forest Management Plans, all goals and strategies identified within the draft Habitat Conservation Plan will be followed for fiscal year 2026 timber sales. These goals and strategies at times will overlap with those within the management plan. Final stream protection configurations will be determined during sale layout to ensure compliance with Forest Management Plans 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 Oregon Coast Coho, Southern Oregon Coast Coho 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 Forest Management Plans.

The district and state forest aquatic and riparian specialist are coordinating a potential future project in Nelson Creek with the Siuslaw Watershed Council, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. This project is in the very early planning stages and is not linked to any of the sales in this Annual Operations Plan. The stream enhancement project is to add large wood to approximately 5 miles of Nelson Creek on both ODF and Bureau of Land Management ownership. The Siuslaw Watershed Council is researching grant funding to use a helicopter to place whole trees into the creek during this fiscal year.

Some district staff may collaborate with local watershed councils on fish habitat improvement projects located on land not managed by ODF, but benefit native fish populations in the region.

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 land exchanges planned at this time. In addition, there are no known Department of State Lands (aka Common School Land) parcel sales or desertification of lands managed in the Western Lane District. It should be known though, that Division of State Lands parcel sales are decisions made by Division of State Lands, not ODF and said parcel sales may occur within the planning timeline of this Annual Operations Plan. At this time the district does not have an approved land exchange plan. District personnel may commence the preparation of a land exchange plan should time allow.

Firewood Cutting Program

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.

Non-Timber Forest Products

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

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. Any pre-commercially thinning acres resulting from this grant are reflected in the district Summary Table A-4 in Grant Funded Activities if applicable. Pre-commercially thinning on identified areas may start as soon as May 2025. The invasive weed treatments portion of the grant is not finalized yet, as such, any invasive weed treatment resulting from this grant are not reflected in the district Summary Table A-4.

Planning

Below are the significant district-level planning projects currently scheduled for commencement, completion, or both in fiscal year 2026.

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 State Forests Division is developing an Enhanced Forest Inventory using a network of permanent fixed radius plots and remotely-sensed data. The Enhance Forest Inventory will replace the legacy Stand Level Inventory when completed. The State Forest Division's Inventory Program is in the process of developing a raster-based estimate of forest biometrics across most of its ownership. Forest biometrics from the combined network of Forest Inventory Analysis plots and supplemental fixed radius plots serve as training data to create models relating those biometrics to lidar data. Those statistical models are then used to predict forest biometrics across the landscape. Biometric estimates will be available in both a wall-to-wall raster format as well as in a stand-aggregated vector format. Enhance Forest Inventory development in the Veneta unit is on-going with draft Enhance Forest Inventory products anticipate for fiscal year 2025. Where lidar coverage is lacking such as in the Southwest Oregon and Coos Units of Western Lane District, the Inventory Program will explore other remotely-sensed data such as digital aerial photogrammetry to expand coverage where lidar would be prohibitively expensive.

Wildlife Surveys

Northern Spotted Owl Surveys

For the fiscal year 2026 Annual Operations Plan, the District will continue the northern spotted owl survey program, in order to comply with Federal and State Endangered Species Acts and to contribute to Forest 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 survey plans and policies will be re-evaluated.

Marbled Murrelet Surveys

In fiscal year 2026, the District will continue its marbled murrelet survey program in order to comply with Federal and State Endangered Species Acts and to contribute to Forest Management Plan goals. Survey requirements are determined in accordance with ODF policy, guidance, and survey protocols. If ODF obtains a Habitat Conservation Plan, these policies will be re-evaluated.

Threatened and Endangered Plants

The District will continue to screen harvest operations against the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center database and other known locations on the district to identify potential conflicts with plant species listed in the District Implementation Plans.

Species of Concern - Wildlife

The District will continue to screen harvest operations against several wildlife databases to identify potential conflicts with species of concern listed in the District 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.

Research and Monitoring

The Southern Oregon Area Wildlife Biologist will be cooperatively working with Oregon State University and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife using game cameras to survey for Humboldt marten and fisher on ODF managed lands.

A cooperative meadow enhancement project with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in the Veneta Unit will be monitored for vegetation establishment and wildlife/pollinator use.

Other Planning Operations

The District will contribute to the preparation of a new Forest Management Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan that would cover all ODF managed land west of the Cascades.

Public Information and Education

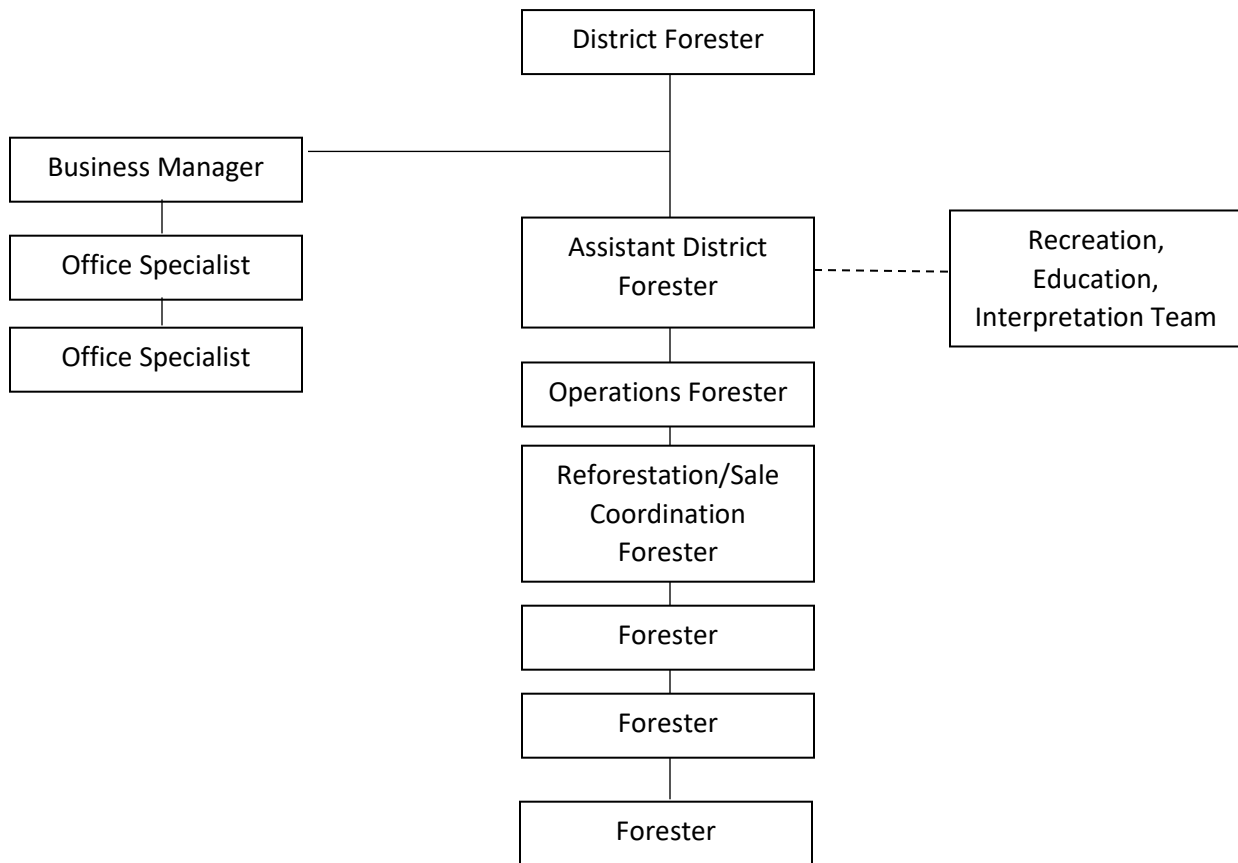
Public information and involvement will include public review and comments on the 2026 Annual

Operations Plan. In addition, informal public review and comment on all district State Forests management activities on an ongoing basis is expected and welcomed.

Administration

There are 6 permanent positions whose full-time function is to manage State Forest land on the District. In addition, the District is supported by the Northwest Oregon Area Recreation, Education and Interpretation Team as well as the Division Planning and Operations Team. All are responsible for implementing the fiscal year 2026 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 Plans, Implementation Plans, and Annual Operations Plan.

Western Lane District 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

B. Vicinity Maps

1. Harvest Operations Vicinity Map – Veneta Unit
2. Harvest Operations Vicinity Map – Southwest Unit

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

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**

TIMBER HARVEST OPERATIONS - FINANCIAL SUMMARY

District: Western Lane (Veneta Unit)

Fiscal Year: 2026

Date: 06/24/2025

AOP Sale Name	Fund %		County	Sale Quarter ¹	Net Acres		Volume (MMBF)			Value		
	BOF	CSL			Partial Cut	Clear-cut	Conifer	Hard-woods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net
Jack Hays	100%	0%	Lane	3	0	56	2.5	0.0	2.5	\$1,386,000	\$30,000	\$1,356,000
Pitter Patter Addition	100%	0%	Lane	3	0	25	0.6	0.2	0.8	\$247,500	\$25,000	\$222,500
South Walton	100%	0%	Lane	3	0	114	6.3	0.0	6.3	\$3,762,000	\$125,000	\$3,637,000
				Sub-total:	0	195	9.4	0.2	9.6	\$5,395,500	\$180,000	\$5,215,500
				Project WOC Sub-total:	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0	\$10,150	\$0
				Total:	0	195	9.4	0.2	9.6	\$5,395,500	\$190,150	\$5,205,350

District: Western Lane (Coos Unit)

AOP Sale Name	Fund %		County	Sale Quarter ¹	Net Acres		Volume (MMBF)			Value		
	BOF	CSL			Partial Cut	Clear-cut	Conifer	Hard-woods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net
None					0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0
				Sub-total:	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0
				Project WOC Sub-total:	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0
				Total:	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0

District: Western Lane (Southwest Unit)

AOP Sale Name	Fund %		County	Sale Quarter ¹	Net Acres		Volume (MMBF)			Value		
	BOF	CSL			Partial Cut	Clear-cut	Conifer	Hard-woods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net
Wind Chime	100%	0%	Douglas	2	0	76	1.8	0.0	1.8	\$729,600	\$125,000	\$604,600
				Sub-total:	0	76	1.8	0.0	1.8	\$729,600	\$125,000	\$604,600
				Project WOC Sub-total:	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0
				Total:	0	76	1.8	0.0	1.8	\$729,600	\$125,000	\$604,600

Alternate Operations

Nelson Nebulous	100%	0%	Lane		0	110	5.0	0.5	5.5	\$3,300,000	\$150,000	\$3,150,000
Sit Back	100%	0%	Lane		0	81	4.0	0.1	4.1	\$2,430,000	\$183,500	\$2,246,500
Windy Gust	100%	0%	Douglas		0	114	2.3	0	2.3	\$912,000	\$190,600	\$721,400
				Sub-total:	0	305	11.3	0.6	9.6	\$5,730,000	\$524,100	\$5,396,500
				Project WOC Sub-total:	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0
				Total:	0	305	11.3	0.6	9.6	\$5,730,000	\$524,100	\$5,396,500

¹The 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: Western Lane

Fiscal Year 2026

Date: 04/08/2025

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

Primary Harvest Operations	Unit (Optional)	Forest Health Issues ¹	Invasive Species	Current LYR/OFS Structures ²	Landscape Design LYR/OFS ³	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 ⁴	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 ⁵	T&E/SOC Species (Includes plants)	Geotechnical - Additional Review Required	Recreation Sites	Scenic Resources	Adjacent Private Landowner (Shared Property Line)	Other Resources or Issues
Jack Hays	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Non-Baseline Thiessen, no Habitat Assessment required
Pitter Patter Addition	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	Adjacent Landowners, Non-Baseline Thiessen, no Habitat Assessment required
South Walton	1	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	Adjacent Landowners, Transmission Lines, Non-Baseline Thiessen, no Habitat Assessment required
South Walton	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	Adjacent Landowners, Transmission Lines, Non-Baseline Thiessen, no Habitat Assessment required
Wind Chime	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	Biological Assessment, Transmission Lines

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 ¹	Invasive Species	Current LYR/OFS Structures ²	Landcape Design LYR/OFS ³	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 ⁴	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 ⁵	T&E/SOC Species (Includes Plants)	Geotechnical - Additional Review Required ⁶	Recreation Sites	Scenic Resources	Adjacent Private Landowner (Shared Property Line)	Other Resources or Issues
Nelson Nebulous	1	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	Elevated Baseline Thiessen, a Habitat Assessment will be prepared, Adjacent Landowners
Sit Back	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	Non-Baseline Thiessen, no Habitat Assessment required
Windy Gust	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	Biological Assessment, Transmission Lines

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

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

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

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

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

⁶ An * indicates Geotechnical review will be completed during timber sale layout.

FOREST ROADS SUMMARY

District: Western Lane

Fiscal Year: 2026

Date: 03/10/2025

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 ¹					
Jack Hays	0.00	\$0	1.20	\$30,000	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$1,386,000	2.2%	
Pitter Patter Addition	0.00	\$0	5.37	\$25,000	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$247,500	10.1%	
South Walton	0.50	\$80,000	2.53	\$45,000	0.13	\$0	\$0	\$125,000	\$3,762,000	3.3%	
Wind Chime	0.00	\$0	5.17	\$125,000	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$125,000	\$729,600	17.1%	
Sub-total	0.50	\$80,000	14.27	\$225,000	0.13	\$0	\$0	\$305,000	\$6,125,100	5.0%	
Sub-total WOC (see below)	0.00	\$0	8.87	\$0	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$10,150	\$0		Grant funded cost not included
Totals	0.50	\$80,000	23.14	\$225,000	0.13	\$0	\$0	\$315,150	\$6,125,100	5.1%	

¹Cost for the road vacating are included in the Improvement costs.

Alternate Operations

Nelson Nebulous	0.66	\$105,000	1.57	\$45,000	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$3,300,000	4.5%	
Sit Back	0.53	\$80,500	3.18	\$103,000	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$183,500	\$2,246,500	8.2%	
Windy Gust	0.20	\$25,000	7.10	\$165,600	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$190,600	\$912,000	20.9%	
Total	1.39	\$210,500	11.9	\$313,600	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$524,100	\$6,458,500	8.1%	

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				
North Siuslaw Maintenance	0.00	\$0	8.87	\$49,304	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$49,304	Grant	Siuslaw RAC Title II Grant Funded
Roadside Spraying	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$10,150	\$0	
Total	0.00	\$0	8.9	\$49,304	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$49,304	\$0	

REFORESTATION AND YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District: Western Lane

Fiscal Year: 2026

Date: 06/24/2025

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			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
*Site Prep - Piling Burning	270	\$4.00	\$1,080.00			\$0.00	270	\$1,080.00
Site Prep - Mechanical			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep - Chemical - Aerial			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep - Chemical - Ground	270	\$150.13	\$40,535.10	48	\$150.13	\$7,206.24	318	\$47,741.34
Initial Planting	270	\$326.30	\$88,101.00	48	\$344.79	\$16,549.92	318	\$104,650.92
Interplanting			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Underplanting			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection - Barriers			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection - Direct Control			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release - Chemical - Aerial			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release - Chemical - Ground	340	\$159.70	\$54,298.00	135	\$70.00	\$9,450.00	475	\$63,748.00
Release - Manual			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Precommercial Thinning			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
*Stocking Surveys			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Invasive Species	50	\$200.00	\$10,000.00			\$0.00	50	\$10,000.00
*Other			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Totals	1,200	--	\$194,014.10	231	--	\$33,206.16	1,431	\$227,220.26

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

REFORESTATION AND YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

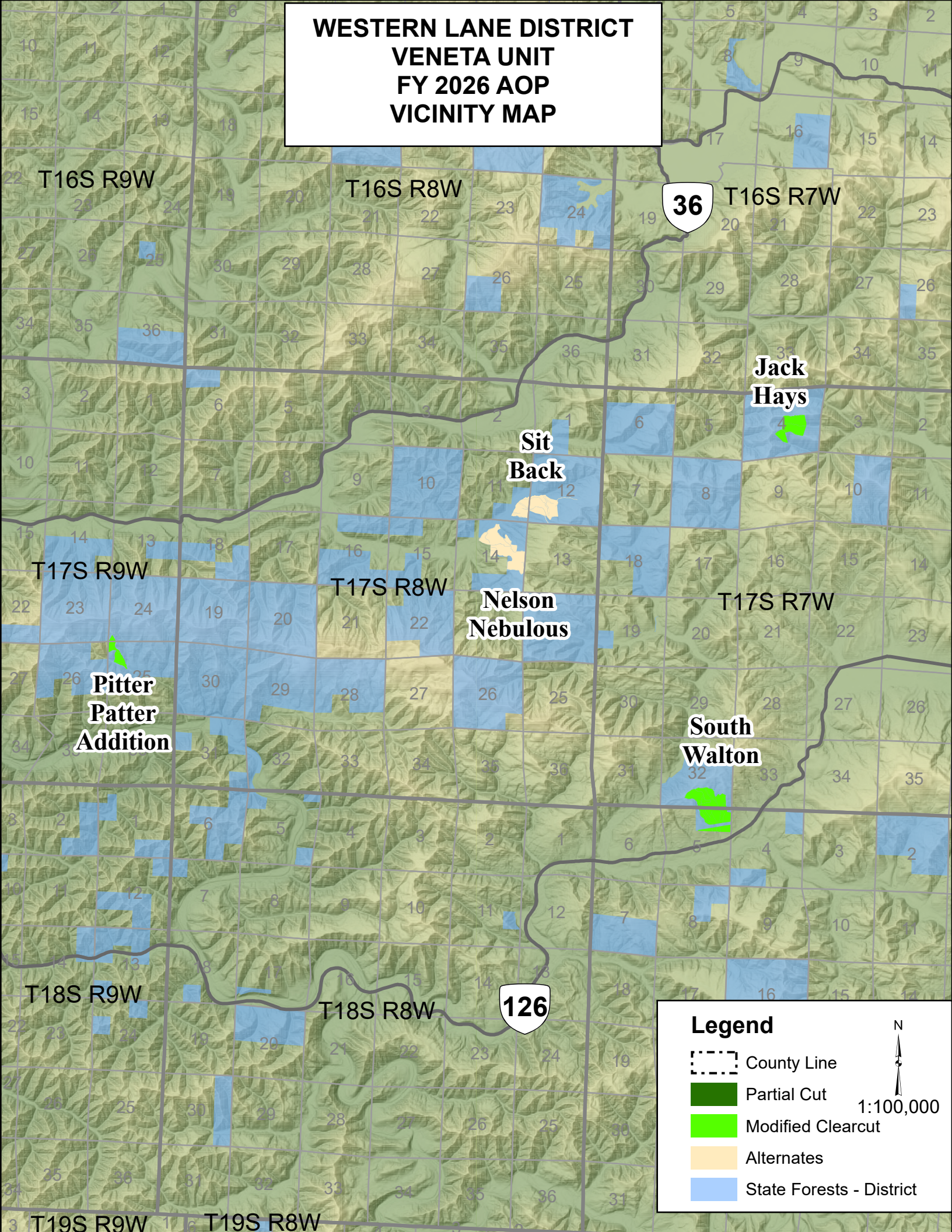
Projects Conducted by Adults in Custody	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District	
<i>(costs are for materials only)</i>	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	BOF Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	CSL Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost
Site Prep - Broadcast Burning			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep - Piling Burning			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep - Mechanical			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Initial Planting			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Interplanting			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Underplanting			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection - Barriers			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection - Direct Control			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release - Manual			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Precommercial Thinning			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Invasive Species			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Other			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Totals	0	--	\$0.00	0	--	\$0.00	0	\$0.00

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	
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00	

Appendix B – Vicinity Maps

- **Harvest Operations Vicinity Map**

**WESTERN LANE DISTRICT
VENETA UNIT
FY 2026 AOP
VICINITY MAP**

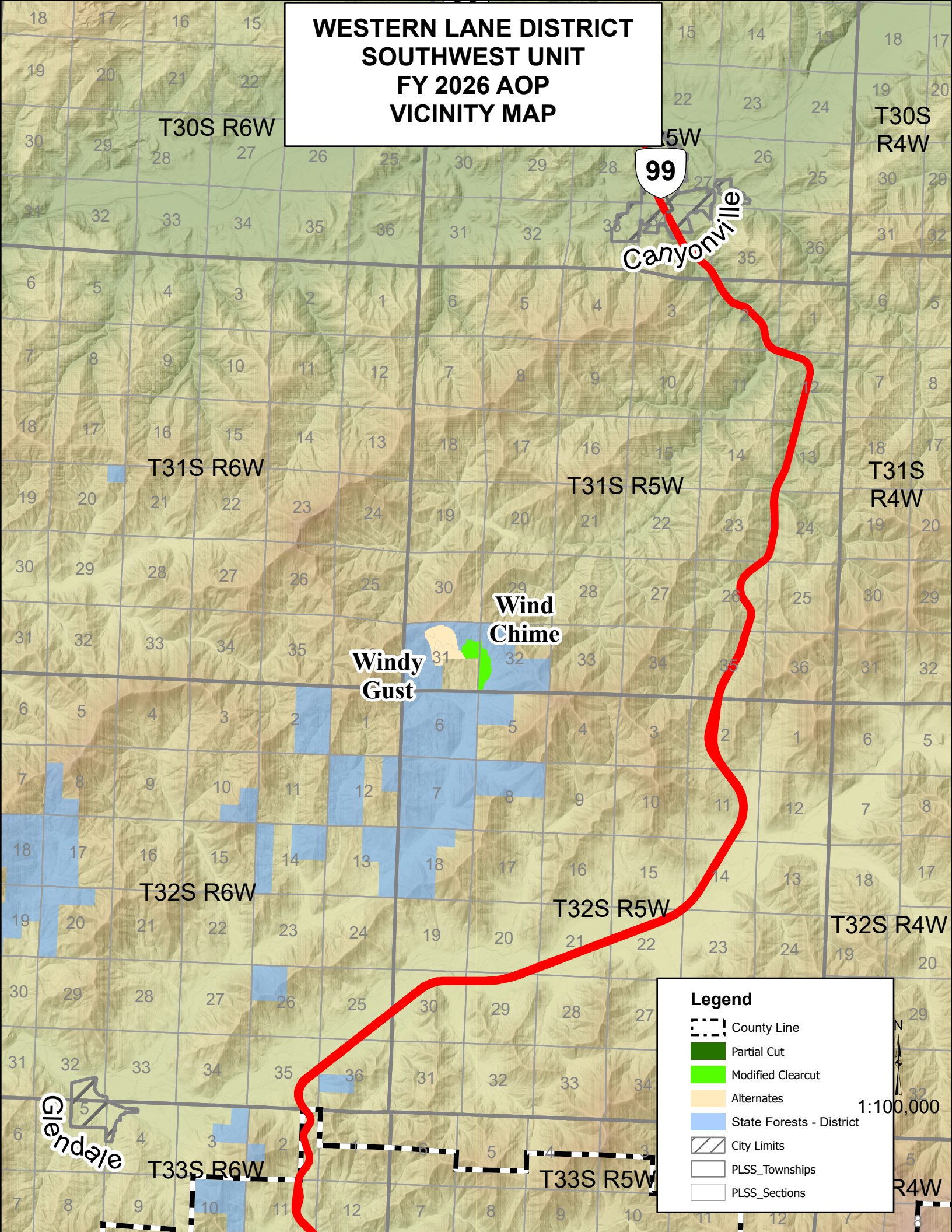


Legend

- County Line
- Partial Cut
- Modified Clearcut
- Alternates
- State Forests - District

N
1:100,000

**WESTERN LANE DISTRICT
SOUTHWEST UNIT
FY 2026 AOP
VICINITY MAP**



Appendix C – Consultations with Other State Agencies

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists were provided the Summary Document and Pre-Operations Reports for review. A follow up cooperator/specialist meeting was held in to address questions and concerns. No comments were received from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Appendix D – Public Comment Process

The Oregon Department of Forestry issued a Press Release in April 2025, announcing a formal 45 day public comment period for the fiscal year 2026 Annual Operations Plans from April 18, 2025 through June 3, 2025.

The purpose of the Public Comment Period is to provide an opportunity for the public to review the Annual Operations Plans, 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.

The following changes have been made to the Western Lane fiscal year 2026 Annual Operations Plan since the Public Comment Period:

Timber Harvest Operations:

- Pre-Operations Reports for all sales:
 - Leave Tree Considerations language was updated for clarity.
- Pre-Operations Reports for Wind Chime, Windy Gate and Nelson Nebulous:
 - Wildlife and T&E Species Considerations were updated following the completion of review of biological/habitat assessments by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.
- Pre-Operations Report for Wind Chime:
 - Updated acres to include existing road, which in turn created updates to the volume and revenue of the sale.
- All Annual Operations Plans documents have been updated to reflect these changes.

Summary Document:

- The Summary Document has been updated to reflect the changes made to timber harvest operations.
- Updated language in the introduction for clarity.

Appendix E – Pre-Operations Reports

There are several ways to access the documents and maps that have been developed for the FY2026 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 Notification

No modifications are proposed with the fiscal year 2026 Annual Operations Plan.

Appendix G – Landscape Design

Implementation Plan Minor Modification Notice

No modifications are proposed with the fiscal year 2026 Annual Operations Plan.