

NORTH CASCADE DISTRICT

2026 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN



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FISCAL YEAR 2026 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 2026. 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). We strive to manage the forest sustainably, so that the benefits from the forest can be delivered into perpetuity. The forest harvesting is planned at a sustainable level; a level that our computer models suggest can be harvested year after year without reduction.

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

Managing a 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, 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 has consulted 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 will be shared with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon.

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

A short summary of activities planned for the coming year:

- Planning on planting approximately 196,000 trees on 800 acres
- Conducting vegetation and animal management activities on 830 acres to ensure the survival and growth of young stands.
- Conducting density surveys for northern spotted owls 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 retaining green trees in clearcut areas and leaving down wood, all for wildlife benefits in harvest areas and future forests.
- Constructing approximately 0.2 miles of road, and improving, rocking, or maintaining approximately 8.1 miles of road to ensure ditch water is dispersed and filtered as much as possible, keeping runoff from entering streams.
- 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 9.9 million board feet of timber volume through clearcuts, and partial cuts, generating revenue of an estimated \$4,197,269 million net value.
- Operating and maintaining developed facilities in a safe, clean, and responsible manner.
- Providing a safe and clean environment for the numerous dispersed activities which occur across the forest – hunting, camping, angling, sight-seeing, target shooting, swimming, mushroom picking, etc.
- Maintaining, managing, and patrolling the 6 miles of motorized and 26 miles of non-motorized trail networks, striving to protect the trail investments, provide for user safety, address developing trail issues, and protect water quality.
- Providing a firewood cutting program as timber sales are completed.
- Supporting ongoing research on the district, in partnership with research cooperatives and universities.

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INTRODUCTION

This Annual Operations Plan outlines activities on state-owned forestland managed by the North Cascade District for Fiscal Year 2026, which begins July 1, 2025, and ends June 30, 2026. By law, ODF must manage state forests for economic, environmental, and social benefits. This plan outlines a balanced approach to meeting this mandate as well as the goals, strategies, and objectives of the NW Oregon Forest Management Plan, draft Habitat Conservation Plan, and the North Cascade District 2025 Implementation Plan.

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. Appendix F describes any modifications to the Forest Land Management Classification System. Appendix G describes any modifications to the North Cascade District's 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 will be held from April 18, 2025, through June 3, 2025. The District Forester will review and consider all comments received before approving this plan. Any changes to the documents after the public review period will be described in Appendix D of the approved plan.

Unfortunately, two areas of the Santiam State Forest remain closed to the public due to resource protection and safety concerns caused by the devastating 2020 fires and some of these areas may not be re-opened in the next few years.

The North Cascade District has been working diligently to mitigate safety risks and restore forest resources, which has allowed for several large geographic areas of the forest to be reopened to the public. In Fiscal Year 2024 the North Cascade District reached the significant milestone of completing post-fire reforestation in areas affected by the 2020 Labor Day Fires.

As part of our commitment to transparency, we invite you to take a look at our public website, [Restoring the Santiam State Forest](#) which has maps of all current closures and open areas as well as specific road systems where access can be obtained and general guidelines for these areas.

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 West Oregon District IP.

**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 harvest operations 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 have been 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 9.9 million board feet in timber volume, generate gross revenues of approximately \$5,001,600 and net revenues of \$4,646,014. The volume objective is slightly below the 10.0 million board foot target outlined in the North Cascade District's 2025 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.

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 Fiscal Year 2026 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 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.

Planned Harvest Volume Objectives	2025 Implementation Plan Objective	Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan
Volume	10.0	9.9

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 listed under Landscape Management Strategy 3 in the NW Oregon State Forests Management Plan (pg. 4-52), 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 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 Forest 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. 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 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 Forest Management Plan, 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.

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. The North Cascade District is participating in The North Cascades Douglas-fir Assisted Migration trial by the Northwest Tree Improvement Cooperative, which is testing for genetic factors that may make seed sources more climate resilient, and the Experimental Network for Assisted Migration and Establishment Silviculture (ENAMES) conducted by the US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, which is studying planted seedlings from different climate regions at different densities to test for climate adaptations.

Harvest Operations within Habitat Conservation Areas

Habitat Conservation Areas are one of the draft Habitat Conservation Plan strategies that are 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 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

	2026 Annual Operations Plan							
	Harvest Outside of Habitat Conservation Areas				Harvest Inside of Habitat Conservation Area			
	Partial Cut Acres	Partial Cut Volume	Clearcut Acres	Clearcut Volume	Partial Cut Acres	Partial Cut Volume	Clearcut Acres	Clearcut Volume
Primary	219	1.4	276	8.5	0	0	0	0
Alternates	0	0	248	9.7	0	0	0	0

Harvest Outside of Habitat Conservation Areas

The 276 acres of regeneration harvest planned for Fiscal Year 2026 represents less than one percent of the district. All of the regeneration harvest acres will be designed as clearcuts.

The 219 acres of partial cut harvest planned for Fiscal Year 2026 represents less than one percent of the district. All of the partial cut acres are within a single sale. The partial cut sale is a first entry thinning and the intent is to thin this area to promote growth.

Harvest Inside of Habitat Conservation Areas

There are no planned harvest units within the Habitat Conservation Areas for Fiscal Year 2026.

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

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 Anchor Sites and Aquatic Anchor sites.

Terrestrial Anchors

Terrestrial Anchor 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 Forest 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 2026).

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

Acres within Terrestrial Anchors	Current Annual Operations Plan (Fiscal Year 2026)		Cumulative Harvest (Since Fiscal Year 2013)	
	Clearcut	Partial Cut	Clearcut	Partial Cut
Rhody Lake Terrestrial Anchor (1,354 ac)	0	0	0	269

% of Acres	0%	0%	0%	19.5%
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Aquatic Anchors

Aquatic Anchor Sites 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 2026 will be summarized in the context of the seven management basins on the North Cascade District. 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 4. Summary of Timber Harvest Operations in each basin. All values are in net acres.

Basin	2026 Annual Operations Plan	
	Partial Cut	Clearcut
Butte Creek	0	0
Cedar Creek	0	144
Crabtree	0	0
Green	0	42
Mad Creek	0	90
Rock Creek	219	0
Scattered	0	0
Totals	219	276

Butte Creek Basin

No sales are planned for this basin.

Cedar Creek Basin

Mashed Potatoes (Primary sale): This is a 144-acre clearcut of 84 to 94-year-old Douglas-fir. The stands within Unit 1 and portions of Unit 3 were thinned in 2007. The stand within Unit 2 and portions of Unit 3 were thinned in 2004. The current stand condition is Understory (34 acres), Layered (8 acres) and Closed Single Canopy (100 acres), 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 3.5 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

West Homestead (Alternate sale): This is a 51-acre clearcut of 51-year-old Douglas-fir, and red alder. The stand being harvested is a planted stand that has no prior history of thinning. The current stand condition of the area being harvested is Understory (45 acres), and the Desired Future Condition is for non-complex stands. There is also an older 171-year-old stand within the sale boundary, however, trees within this older age class will be reserved as leave trees. That stand has a current stand condition of Older Forest Structure (6 acres) with a desired future condition of non-complex. Following the completion of harvest, the sale will be planted with a mixture of species native to the geographic area.

Approximately 1 mile of road will be constructed, and 0.4 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

100% of the sale is located on Common School Land.

Crabtree Basin

The Final Countdown (Alternate sale): This is a 94-acre clearcut of 76-year-old Douglas-fir and western hemlock. The stands within this timber sale were thinned in 2001, including removal of *Phellinus weirii* root rot pockets. The current stand condition 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 0.7 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

Green Basin

Cold Creek (Primary sale): This is a 42-acre clearcut of 50 to 64-year-old Douglas-fir and red alder. The stands within this timber sale were thinned in 2004 and impacted by the 2020 labor day fire. The current stand condition 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 0.2 miles of road will be constructed, and 1 mile of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

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 89% of the sale is located on Common School Land.

Mad Creek Basin

Pluto (Primary sale): This is a 90-acre clearcut of 90-year-old Douglas-fir and western hemlock. The stands within this timber sale were thinned in 2001. The current stand condition 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 1.8 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

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

Rock Creek Basin

1000 Line Jim Thin (Primary sale): This is a 219-acre partial cut. The harvest will take place in 40 to 62-year-old Douglas-fir, red alder, noble fir, and western hemlock. These stands were planted and have no record of previous pre-commercial or commercial thinning. The current stand condition Understory (166 acres) and Closed Single Canopy (53 acres), and the Desired Future Condition is for non-complex stands.

Approximately 1.8 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

Bear Feet (Alternate sale): This is a 103-acre clearcut of 59 to 99-year-old Douglas-fir and western hemlock. The stands within this timber sale were thinning in 2009. The current stand condition is Understory (77 acres) and Older Forest Structure (26 acres). 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 1.4 miles of road will be improved, rocked, or maintained.

Scattered Basin

No sales are planned for this basin.

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.

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. The Mashed Potatoes sale and a portion of the 1000 Line Jim Thin sale are behind locked gates.

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 and recreation opportunities as well as safe public travel and fire protection access. 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.

The District will continue to explore new rock sources in Fiscal Year 2026. Quarry developments are planned for the following projects; however, these plans are subject to change as project work is laid out:

- Sevenmile Crushing – Work Order Contract

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:

- Roadside Vegetation Treatment South Block
- Sevenmile Crushing
- Roadside Brushing in Central Blocks – Shellburg, Stout Creek, Cedar Creek, Niagara
- Sardine Creek Road Repair (carryover from approved Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Operations Plan)
 - Delay in implementation due to coordination with utility companies planning processes for post-fire restoration work.

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 of 2025, roadside vegetation surveys will be conducted to determine roadside vegetation management treatment needs for Fiscal Year 2026.

Land Surveying

- The 2020 Labor Day fires destroyed property line markers in many areas. These need to be resurveyed or refreshed prior to harvest. 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: West Homestead (Alternate sale) – 1.0 mile

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 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 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. A portion of the activities may be completed by utilizing work crews from the Oregon Santiam Correctional Facility. These crews work on activities such as tree protection, mechanical hand release, planting, and noxious weed control.

Seedlings / Nurseries

To meet the goals of the Forest 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 will be accomplished by burning piles of slash that result from the harvest.

- 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 will incorporate a site-appropriate species mix factoring in seed zone, location, elevation, aspect, presence of root disease, the Desired Future Condition of the site, and hotter, drier conditions as a result of climate change where possible. To accomplish this, a mixture of species and planting densities are utilized to provide for a healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystem over time that is 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 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: This approach will be utilized to accomplish reforestation goals in areas that have difficult access or safety concerns for planting due to remaining hazard trees and have enough surviving green trees in the overstory to provide seed. This approach will help promote a natural succession pathway that includes a delayed response to conifer regeneration and allow for perennial shrubs and hardwoods to colonize these areas.

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 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 to help prevent damage to newly planted trees.

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 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 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 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, 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, 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* (laminated root rot), pre-commercial thinning can be used to favor species other than impacted Douglas-fir trees in the residual stand.

Stocking Surveys

The Reforestation Unit has the responsibility of ensuring that the goals of the Forest Management Plan are met. Stocking surveys is one tool to ensure the stands are on track for the Desired Future Condition. The surveys are done 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 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 be used for feeding stock on State Forest Lands.

Reforestation continues to work with Marketing, Forest Roads, and Recreation personnel to identify appropriate steps each unit can take 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. 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 in varying degrees. Currently the direction for management of recreation flows from the NW Oregon State Forest 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 2026 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 2026 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 manages the following developed facilities in the North Cascade District:

- 3 Campgrounds
- 1 Off-Highway Vehicle Staging Area
- 1 Day-Use Area
- 7 Trailheads
- 1 Designated Target Shooting Area

Fiscal Year 2026 facility projects on the North Cascade District are identified and described in the following table (Table 6).

Table 5. Facility Projects

Project Type	Project Name	Project Status	Work Resources	Project Description
Construction	Shellburg MTB Trailhead Relocation and Trail Construction	Fiscal Year 2026	Recreation Staff	Relocate Shellburg MTB Trailhead off private land and construct trailhead on State Forest land.

Facility Maintenance

Maintenance of existing facilities remains the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program's 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 result 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.

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will implement a recreation management plan for the wildfire impacted High Lakes area that focuses on providing safe non-motorized access to this region while also prioritizing ecological recovery. The plan includes the development of a recreation access map, educational signage, and planning for future trail development that eventually disconnects non-motorized trails from the road system.

Fiscal Year 2026 non-motorized trail projects on the North Cascade District are identified and described in the following table (Table 7).

Table 6. Non-Motorized Trail Projects

Project Type	Project Name	Project Status	Work Resources	Project Description
Construction	Shellburg MTB Trailhead Relocation and	Fiscal Year 2026	Recreation Staff, Volunteers	Construct Approximately 0.18 miles of MTB trail to connect new trailhead to existing trail network and construct approximately 0.15 miles of

	Trail Construction			hiking trail to connect Shellburg Creek Trail to Shellburg Falls Day Use Area.
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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 trails 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 Marketing, Roads, and Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program 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.

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 facilitated through external partnership agreements.

In Fiscal Year 2026, 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 Recreation, Education, and Interpretation 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, Education, and Interpretation 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 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

In an effort to collect resources proactively for future interpretive opportunities in relation to the Santiam State Forest wildfire impacts and restoration efforts, the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will continue to record historical evidence, interpretive resources, and data to preserve the record and provide meaning to the Labor Day Fires in relation to the Santiam State Forest.

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will highlight the five-year anniversary of the Labor Day Fires with a guest artist at the Tillamook Forest Center, drafting the Fern Ridge Project Area interpretive signage, and updating the Santiam State Forest Recreation Guide.

Other Integrated Forest Management Projects

Aquatic & Riparian Management

All streams found in State Forests are subject to the Management Standards for Aquatic and Riparian Areas as outlined in Appendix J found in the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan (2010) at a minimum. An objective of State Forests' aquatic resources is to maintain, enhance, and restore properly functioning aquatic and riparian functions. This is achieved primarily through riparian buffer strategies specific to the aquatic resource characteristics such as presence of fish, stream size, and flow duration.

Several strategies, described in the Forest 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 Forest Management Plan all goals and strategies identified within the draft Habitat Conservation Plan will be followed for Fiscal Year 2025 timber sales. These goals and strategies at times will overlap with those within the Forest Management Plan. Final stream protection configurations will be determined during sale layout to ensure compliance with Forest Management Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan strategies.

Threatened and Endangered Fish Species: Federally Threatened 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 Forest Management Plan. After review by ODF's Aquatic and Riparian Specialist and by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists during the Annual Operations Plan cooperators meeting, it was determined that there may be opportunities for stream enhancement in some of the planned sale areas. Further field reconnaissance will be completed by District and ODF's Aquatic and Riparian Specialist, along with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to determine possible locations.

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

- Bear Feet (Alternate sale)
- The Final Countdown (Alternate sale)

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 Division of State Lands.

Land Exchange

In order to maintain or improve access to land parcels and potentially consolidate lands the district will continue to pursue easement opportunities and consider land exchange opportunities that are consistent with current Board of Forestry policy to achieve greatest permanent value.

Law Enforcement and Public Safety

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

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. As such, 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

In Fiscal Year 2022, the State Forest Inventory Program and the North Cascade District collaborated to redraw stand polygons within the 2020 fire perimeter in an effort to reflect post-fire conditions more accurately in the Stand Level Inventory.

The State Forests Division is developing a new Enhanced Forest Inventory that uses a network of permanent monitoring plots, lidar data, and remote imagery. When the Enhanced Forest Inventory is complete, it will replace the Stand Level Inventory. The 2020 fires on the North Cascade District impacted the development of the Enhanced Forest Inventory by delaying the installation and measurement of permanent plots and by changing the landscape in areas where lidar data had already been collected. Since the fires, the remaining plot level data has been gathered and a grant was awarded to ODF for the acquisition of additional lidar data within the fire perimeter. In Fiscal Year 2024 ODF partnered with the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to develop the Enhanced Forest Inventory for the fire affected areas.

Wildlife Surveys

Northern Spotted Owl Surveys

For the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan, the district will continue the northern spotted owl survey program 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 policies will be re-evaluated.

Threatened & 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 Plan.

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 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.

Research and Monitoring

Additionally, 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 district is still waiting to receive the results of the initial 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.

Other post-fire research projects for which Special Use Permits have been issued or are anticipated are for a riparian management study (National Council for Air and Stream Improvement) and a soil science study (Oregon State University).

Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program

In Fiscal Year 2026, 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.
- In cooperation with Marion County Sheriff's Office, ODF is starting discussions to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement to provide area to build a Search and Rescue training facility. The site would likely include a permanent building to be used for Search and Rescue training.

The South Cascade District has a similar agreement for a Search and Rescue training facility in place with Linn County Sheriff's Office and one of the landowners in that district. That partnership has shown success for both parties.

Currently, ODF and Marion County Sheriff's Office have an agreement in place for forestry patrol to be done on the Santiam State Forest within Marion County. The planned Search and Rescue Training Facility would further strengthen the relationship between ODF and Marion County Sheriff's Office as well as add to managing the Santiam State Forest for greatest permanent value to all Oregonians.

Public Information and Education

Public information and involvement activities will include review and input regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan.

The Recreation, Education, and 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

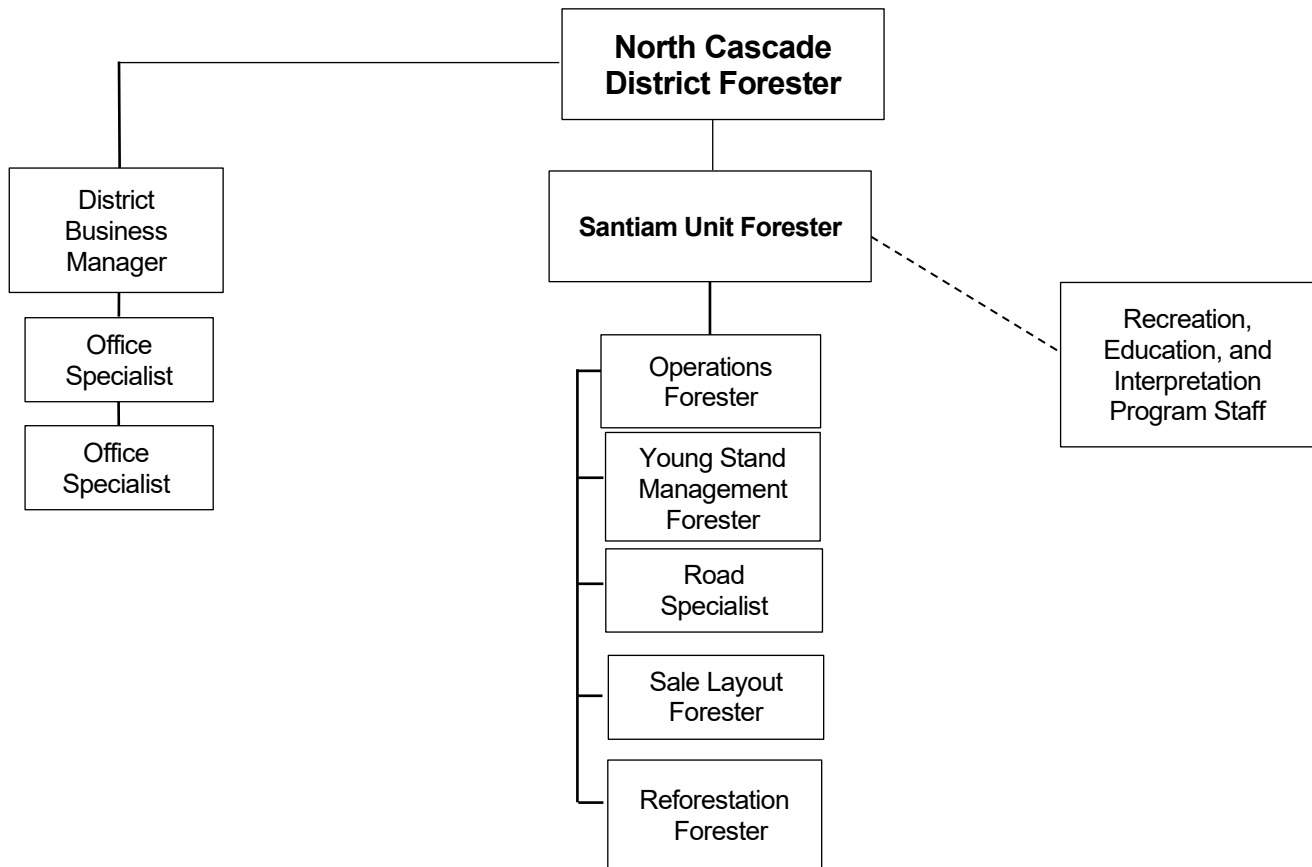
6). The Tillamook Forest Center is ODF's only visitors' center, and while located on the Tillamook District, it serves as a hub for public education on forest-related topics, active forest management, fire prevention messaging, agency wide initiatives, and general information about the variety of recreational opportunities available on state forests, while also offering meaningful interpretive programs to help promote a culture of forest stewardship and maintain public permission to manage state forests. The Tillamook Forest Center continues to host numerous 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 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 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 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 Maps

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 involvement 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: 2026

Date: 04/08/2025

Primary Operation	Fund %		County	Sale Quarter ¹	Net Acres		Volume (MMBF)			Value		
	BOF	CSL			Partial Cut	Clear-cut	Con-ifer	Hard-woods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net
1000 Line Jim Thin	100%	0%	Linn (100%)	1	219	0	1.4	0.0	1.4	\$427,200	\$92,554	\$334,646
Cold Creek	11%	89%	Marion (100%)	2	0	42	0.8	0.0	0.8	\$357,000	\$97,457	\$259,543
Mashed Potatoes	100%	0%	Marion (100%)	4	0	144	4.6	0.0	4.6	\$2,534,400	\$86,859	\$2,447,541
Pluto	100%	0%	Linn (100%)	3	0	90	3.1	0.0	3.1	\$1,683,000	\$78,716	\$1,604,284
Sub-total:					219	276	9.9	0.0	9.9	\$ 5,001,600	\$ 355,586	\$ 4,646,014
Project WOC Sub-total:											\$ 448,745	
Total:					219	276	9.9	0.0	9.9	\$ 5,001,600	\$ 804,331	\$ 4,197,269

Alternate Operation	Fund %		County	Sale Quarter	Net Acres		Volume (MMBF)			Value		
	BOF	CSL			Partial Cut	Clear-cut	Con-ifer	Hard-woods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net
Bear Feet	100%	0%	Linn (100%)	ALT	0	103	5.1	0.0	5.1	\$2,775,850	\$44,008	\$2,731,842
The Final Countdown	100%	0%	Linn (100%)	ALT	0	94	3.1	0.0	3.1	\$1,706,100	\$43,533	\$1,662,567
West Homestead	0%	100%	Marion (100%)	ALT	0	51	1.5	0.0	1.5	\$459,000	\$94,661	\$364,339
Total:					0	248	9.7	0.0	9.7	4,940,950	182,202	4,758,748

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: North Cascade

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	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 MIMMA (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
1000 Line Jim Thin		x	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	x	
Cold Creek		x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	
Mashed Potatoes		x	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	x	
Pluto		-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	

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 were in pre-fire 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); operations planned in stands with a pre-fire stand condition of layered or older forest structure are burned and no longer contain living forest components needed for those stand structure types.

⁴ The final decision on these projects will occur during sale preparation and inconslutation 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.

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	Landscape Design LYR/OFS ³	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	Operating within a MIMMA (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
Bear Feet		x	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
The Final Countdown		x	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	x	
West Homestead		x	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	

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 inconslutation 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.

FOREST ROADS SUMMARY

District: North Cascade

Fiscal Year: 2026

Date: 04/08/2025

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					
1000 Line Jim Thin	0	\$31,080	1.76	\$61,474	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$92,554	\$427,200	21.7%	15 - new construct landings
Cold Creek Thin	0.24	\$16,104	0.99	\$81,353	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$97,457	\$357,000	27.3%	
Mashed Potatoes	0	\$4,660	3.53	\$82,199	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$86,859	\$2,534,400	3.4%	5 - new construct landings
Pluto	0	\$23,640	1.81	\$55,076	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$78,716	\$1,683,000	4.7%	10 - new construct landings
Sub-total	0.2	\$75,484	8.1	\$280,102	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$355,586	\$5,001,600	7.1%	
Sub-total WOC (see below)	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$220,000	0.0	\$0	\$228,745	\$448,745	\$0		
Totals	0.2	\$75,484	8.1	\$500,102	0.0	\$0	\$228,745	\$804,331	\$5,001,600	16.1%	

Alternate Operations

Bear Feet	0	\$12,184	1.38	\$31,824	0.0	\$0	0	\$44,008	\$2,775,850		8 new construct landings
The Final Countdown	0.11	\$7,692	0.69	\$35,840	0.0	\$0	0	\$43,533	\$1,706,100		
West Homestead	0.98	\$85,994	0.41	\$8,667	0.0	\$0	0	\$94,661	\$459,000		
Total	1.1	\$105,870	2.5	\$76,332	0.0	\$0	0.0	\$182,202	\$4,940,950	3.7%	

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 Spray South Block	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$27,000	\$27,000	FDF	
Sevenmile Crushing	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$146,000	\$146,000	FDF	Crush 7,000 cy of 1.5"- 0"
Central Brushing	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$55,745	\$55,745	FDF	Shellburg, Stout, Cedar, Niagara, Hudel
Sardine Creek Road Repair	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$220,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$220,000	FDF	FY24 AOP carryover. Post-fire road repair
Total	0.0	\$0	0.0	\$220,000	0.0	\$0	\$228,745	\$448,745		

REFORESTATION AND YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District: North Cascade

Fiscal Year: 2026

Date: 04/08/2025

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	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Site Prep - Piling Burning	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
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	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Initial Planting	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Interplanting	800	\$183.75	\$147,000	0	\$0.00	\$0	800	\$147,000
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	238	\$105.00	\$24,990	0	\$0.00	\$0	238	\$24,990
Release - Chemical - Aerial	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Release - Chemical - Ground	350	\$120.00	\$42,000	0	\$0.00	\$0	350	\$42,000
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	4,200	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	4,200	\$0
Invasive Species	83	\$120.00	\$9,960	0	\$0.00	\$0	83	\$9,960
Other	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Totals	5,671	--	\$223,950	0	--	\$0	5,671	\$223,950

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

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	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0
Site Prep - Piling 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	134	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	134	\$0
Release - Manual	16	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	16	\$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)	92	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	92	\$0
Totals	242	--	\$0	0	--	\$0	242	\$0

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	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0.00	\$0	0	\$0	

RECREATION SITE MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District: North Cascade

Fiscal Year: 2026

Date: 04/07/2025

Project	Construction Projects		Improvement Projects		Operations & Maintenance Projects		Total Costs	Comments
	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)		
Campgrounds								
Vault Toilet Pumping					\$6,250		\$6,250	
Garbage Service								
Miscellaneous Maintenance					\$800		\$800	Well Testing
Trailheads/ Day Use Areas								
Vault Toilet Pumping					\$2,750		\$2,750	
Garbage Service								
Miscellaneous Maintenance								
Other Operations								
District Compound REI Charges					\$2,500		\$2,500	Garbage
					FDF Total		\$12,300	
					Other Total		\$0	
					TOTAL		\$12,300	

RECREATION TRAIL MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Project	Construction Projects		Improvement Projects		Operations & Maintenance Projects		Total Costs	Comments
	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)	ODF (\$)	Other (\$)		
Non-Motorized								
Shellburg MTB Trailhead Relocation and Trail Construction			\$500				\$500	Estimated culvert cost
Motorized								
					FDF Total		\$500	
					Other Total		\$0	
					TOTAL		\$500	

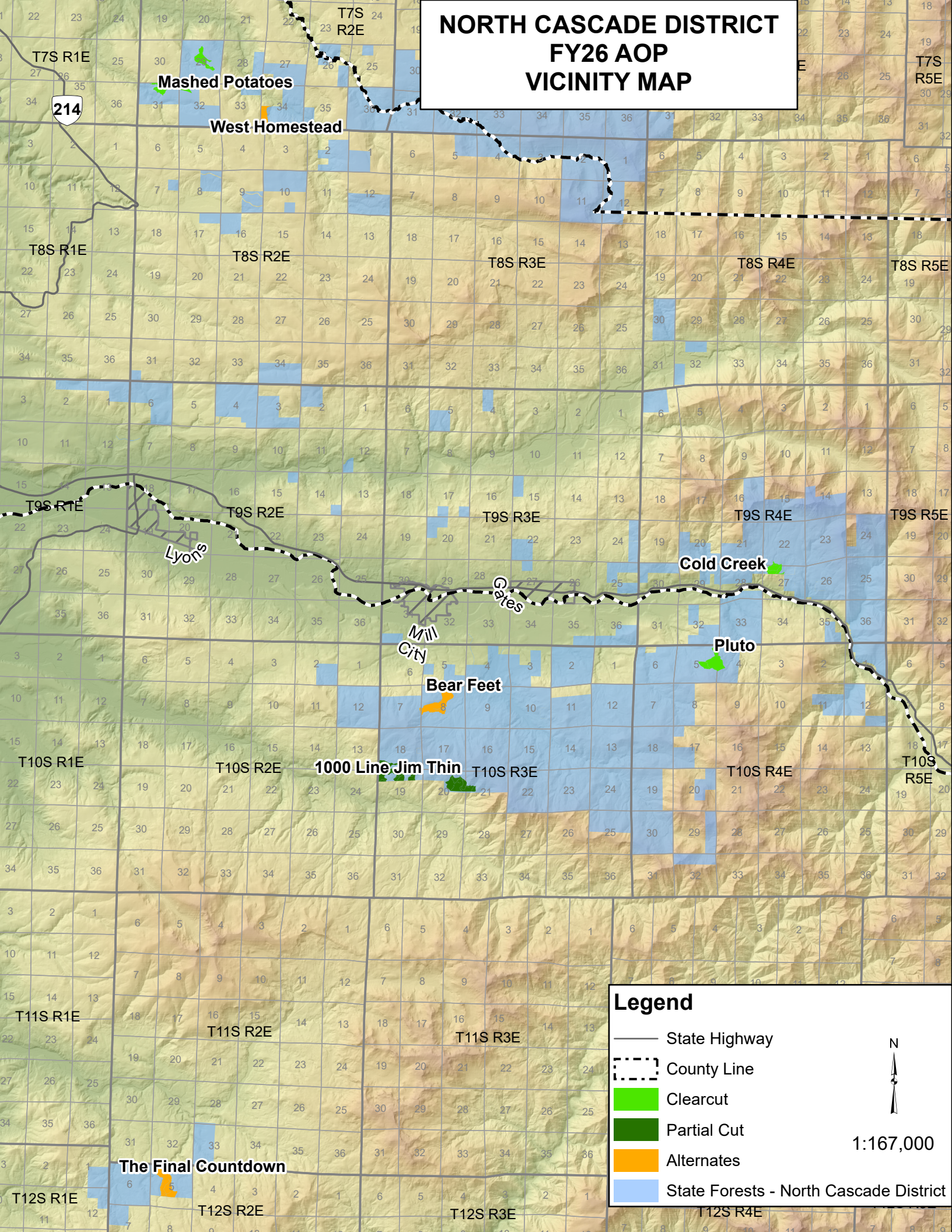
RECREATION GRANT MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Grant	Award Date (actual or anticipated)	Recreation Leadership Approval	Goals/Purpose	Funding		Project Total	Comments
				Grant (\$)	Match (\$)		
						\$0	
				Grants Total		\$0	
				Match Total		\$0	
				TOTAL		\$0	

Appendix B – Vicinity Maps

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

NORTH CASCADE DISTRICT FY26 AOP VICINITY MAP



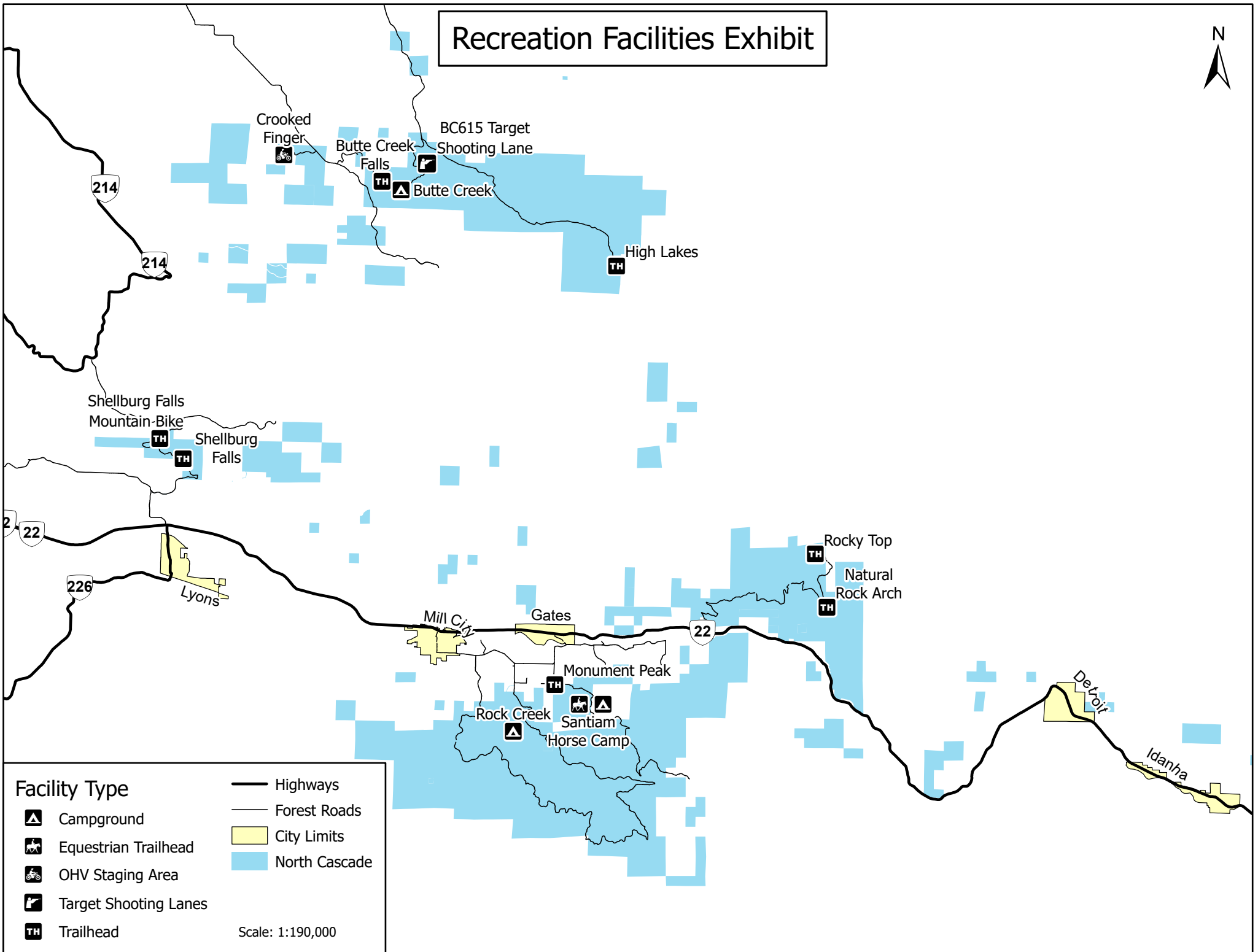
Legend

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



1:167,000

Recreation Facilities Exhibit



Facility Type

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

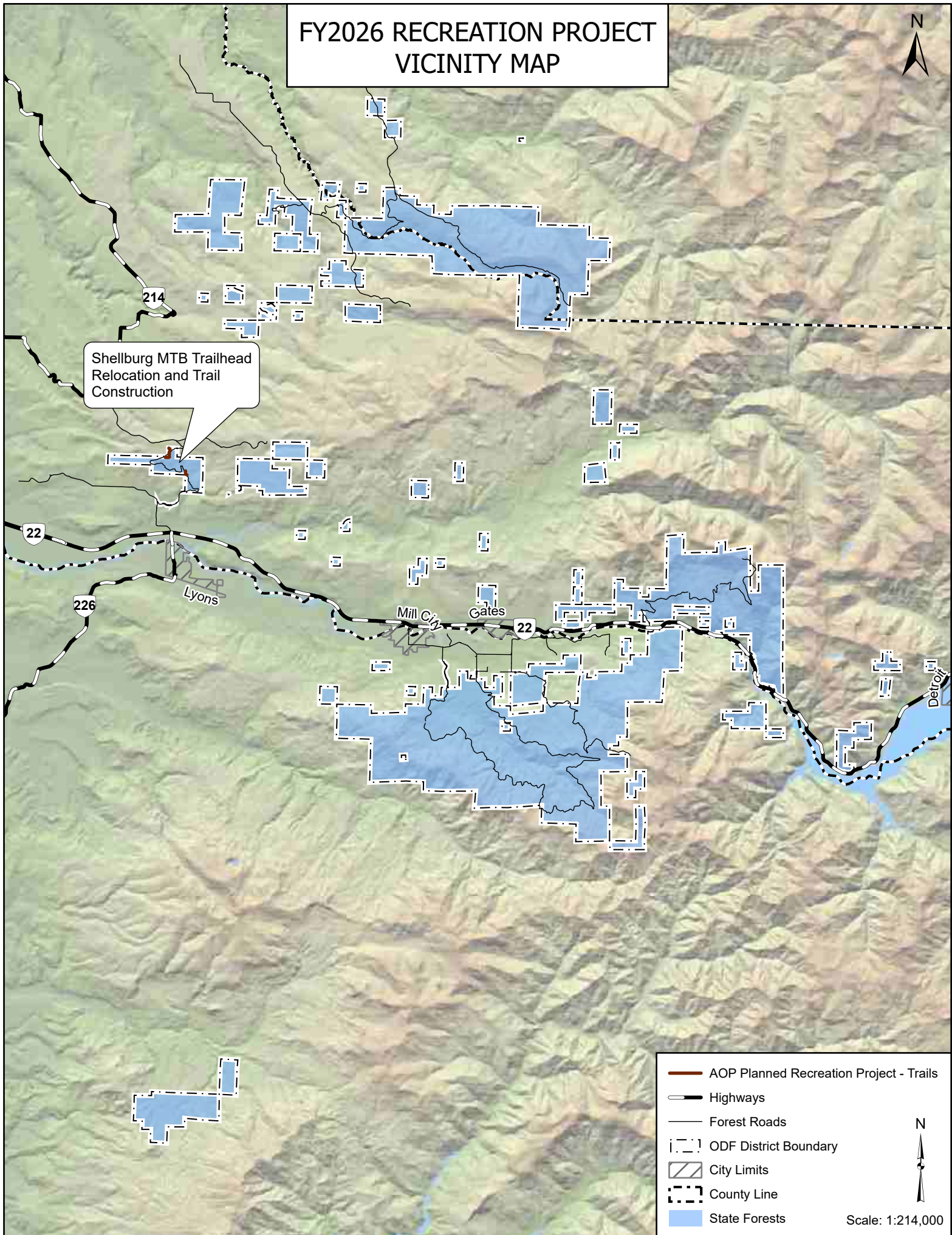
- Highways
- Forest Roads
- City Limits
- North Cascade

Scale: 1:190,000

FY2026 RECREATION PROJECT VICINITY MAP



Shellburg MTB Trailhead
Relocation and Trail
Construction



- 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:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists were provided with the Summary Document and Pre-Operations Reports for review. A follow-up cooperator/specialist meeting was held to address questions and concerns.

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 North Cascade Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operation Plan 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.

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 Notice

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.