



EUGENE BLM

“EYE TO THE FUTURE”

Planning and Project Focus

January 2004

A Note from the District Manager

The “Eye to the Future” is prepared to inform you of ongoing and proposed activities on the Eugene District. It is our intent to increase awareness of BLM issues important to the public. Your ideas, comments, and participation help us to make informed decisions and implement better projects.

In 2003, the District offered 29 million board feet of timber for sale and we are on track to offer a similar volume in 2004. In addition, we completed extensive maintenance of our infrastructure including: chip sealing 65 miles of the Siuslaw River road system, replacing water systems at several recreation sites, and completing improvements on over 20 miles of trails. Working with the City of Eugene and the Nature Conservancy we began restoration on several critical wetlands properties. We are also working with another exciting partnership, the Willamette Resource Education Network (WREN), to create an environmental education Center in the wetlands.

The Eugene District will soon begin the fourth round of project development under the “Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act”. To date, the Eugene District Resource Advisory Committee has allocated approximately 4 million dollars toward projects benefiting O&C lands. These projects have included replacement of culverts, weed control, trash cleanup, recreation site improvement, and major maintenance of BLM’s road system.

We are currently evaluating the land use planning decisions made in our 1995 Resource Management Plan. We anticipate that evaluation will require the Eugene District to initiate a RMP revision process. Public involvement is a key step in the plan revision and will begin later this year.

You are also invited to visit our web page at www.edo.or.blm.gov. or E-mail us at or090mb@or.blm.gov.

Julia Dougan, District Manager

EUGENE DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

District Manager	Julia Dougan
Assistant District Manager for Operations	Jack Hall
Assistant District Manager for Field Services	Polly Elliott
Upper Willamette Resource Area Field Manager	Emily Rice
Siuslaw Resource Area Field Manager	Steve Calish

District Phone Number 541-683-6600 or Toll Free 1-888-442-3061

District-wide Projects

Project: Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Resource Advisory Committee
Contact: Wayne Elliott (541-683-6989)

Description: The Eugene District Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) held formal meetings on November 7, 2002 and May 22, 2003 for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the RAC as specified in the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act," P. L. 106-393.

Status: *As a result of these two meetings RAC members were able reach agreement relatively quickly on projects to be funded with fiscal year 2004 funds under Title II of the Act. These Title II projects are most appropriately termed 'round 3' projects. 'Round 4' projects will utilize FY 05 funding and the Eugene RAC will begin deliberations of these potential projects at a formal meeting scheduled for May 20, 2004, at the Eugene District Office. . Any member of the public may nominate a round 4 Title II project to the Eugene District if the project meets the purposes of this Act. More information on how to recommend projects can be obtained from the Eugene District WEB site at <http://www.edo.blm.gov>.*

ROUND 3 TITLE II PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

Douglas County

Invasive Plant Species Treatments
Forest Work Camp

Linn County

Timber Road

Lane County

Cottage Grove/Big River Stream Enhancement
Lane County Forest Work Camp
Juvenile Forest Work Team
Abandoned Vehicle Removal
Timber Road
Lane County Fish Passage Improvement

Northwest Youth Corps
Invasive Plant Species Treatments
Fish Creek Culverts
Eugene RAC Operating Expenses
Eugene District Office, In-direct

TOTAL **\$1,402,255.00**

UPPER WILLAMETTE RESOURCE AREA

Project: *Aster vialis* Habitat Enhancement Project

Contact: Cheshire Mayrsohn (683-6407)

Location: Upper Willamette Resource Area

Description: This project proposes to implement a habitat enhancement project for *Aster vialis*, a Special Status plant, on several sites located in the Willamette Valley east of I-5. Habitat enhancement would be done by reducing canopy cover at selected *Aster vialis* sites. Eleven sites totaling 128 acres are in need of treatment

Status: *Work is currently underway on an environmental assessment.*

McKenzie Watershed

Project: Taylor Landing Recreation Site Improvements

Contact: Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)

Location: T.17S., R.01E., Section 19

Description: This project proposes to make improvements to Taylor Landing, a day use recreation site located along the McKenzie River. The proposed improvements would improve boat launching, fishing and picnicking facilities, and mitigate impacts to the riparian area by defining and hardening recreational use areas.

Status: *Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. A decision is expected in March of 2004.*

Bear Creek Watershed

Project: Bear Creek Timber Sale

Contact: Richard Hardt (683-6690)

Location: T.16S., R.03E., Sections 21,28 and 29

Description: Located in the Central Cascades Adaptive Management Area (CCAMA) land use allocation, the purpose of this project is to manage stands to maintain forest health and productivity, meet ACS objectives, to provide timber products, and to develop a learning component in a manner consistent with the Northwest Forest Plan and the Eugene Resource Management Plan.

Status: *Work on an environmental assessment is currently underway and is expected to be available for public review and comment by February of 2004.*

Mohawk/McGowan Watershed

Project: Upper Cash Creek Timber Sale and Stream Enhancement Project

Contact: Jack Zweisler (683-6497)

Location: T. 15 S., R. 2W., Sections 21, 22 and 28

Description: This project proposes to thin high density stands in the in the upper CashCreek watershed, and Fish Habitat Enhancement in Shotgun, Crooked, Cash and Owl creeks. Actions may include timber harvest, snag creation, road improvements, temporary road construction, road decommissioning and placement of large wood in streams.

Status: *Work on an environmental assessment is scheduled to begin in March of 2004.*

Project: Cash Creek Meadow Restoration

Contact: Dave Reed (683-2237)

Location: T. 15S., R. 01W., Sections 31 and 6

Description: This project proposes to use prescribe fire and/or mechanical treatments to restore the Lower Cash Creek Meadow to open meadow habitat.

Status: *Work on an environmental assessment is currently underway.*

Calapooia Watershed

Project: Casnor Peak Salvage

Contact: Trish Wilson (683-6448)

Location: T. 14S., R. 01E., Section 19

Description: This project proposes to salvage blown down timber on approximately 14 acres of matrix allocated land.

Status: *Work on an environmental assessment is scheduled to begin in February of 2004.*

Project: Crawfordsville Fuel Reduction

Contact: Trish Wilson

Location: T. 14S., R. 02W., Section 13

Description: This project proposed to reduce fuel loadings by removing a portion of blown down trees in one part of the Coburg Hills Relic Forest Islands Area of Critical Environmental Concern. A 2002 winter storm blew down trees on approximately 11 acres of the 804 acre site. The blown down trees are considered a fuel risk due to their proximity to private residences and their location in the ACEC.

Status: *Work on a categorical exclusion is scheduled to begin in February of 2004.*

SIUSLAW RESOURCE AREA

Lake Creek Watershed

Project: North Lake Creek Thinning Project

Contact: Rick Colvin (683-66597)

Location: Primarily in the Upper Lake Creek area, north of Hult Pond, just north of Horton.

Description: BLM is planning a program to thin forested stands in the Upper Lake Creek drainage, mostly north of Hult Pond, but also including parts of the South Fork Alsea and Long Tom watersheds. The planning area is approximately 13,000 acres, and most timbered stands are 40-50 years old. Thinning would involve cutting trees for the primary purpose of widening spacing so that growth of remaining trees can be accelerated. Thinning would in the Matrix land use allocation and the adjacent Riparian Reserves, over several years.

Status: *An Environmental Assessment (EA) is expected to be available for public review and comment in the spring of 2004. If you would like to receive a copy of the EA, please contact Rick Colvin, at the phone number listed above.*

Project: Upper Lake Creek Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) - Recreation Area

Management Plan (RAMP).

Contact: Saundra Miles (683-6227)

Location: 15,000 acres above Horton to the border of the BLM Salem District, includes Hult Reservoir, also known as the Mill Pond or Hult Pond. The SRMA is mostly in Lake Creek Watershed, but with some portions in Long Tom and South Fork Alsea watersheds.

Description: The Resource Area (RA) is developing a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for the Upper Lake Creek Special Recreation Management Area that was designated in the Eugene District RMP. The plan will recommend specific management actions for recreation, as well as designate a Transportation Management Plan.

Status: *A RAMP and Environmental Assessment (EA) is expected to be available for public review and comment March 2004. If you would like to be on the mailing list contact Saundra Miles.*

Project : Lake Creek Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project

Contact: Leo Poole (683-6289)

Location: T16S R7W Sections 22, 27

Description: Undersized and barrier culverts that prevent the natural migration of aquatic species to tributaries of Fish Creek will be replaced with larger non barrier passages.

Status: *An environmental assessment was completed and available for a 30 day public comment period. No Comment was received and a Decision Record and FONSI were published 7/18/03. The project is expected to commence in the Summer 2004.*

Siuslaw Watershed

Project: Norris Divide Timber Sale

Contact: Rick Colvin (683-6659)

Location: T20S, R4W, Sec 9

Description: A combination of density management thinning and regeneration harvest is being considered for this 250 acre project area. It is in the Matrix Land Use Allocation and is located adjacent to the Cottage Grove-Lorane Highway, approximately 5 miles northwest of Cottage Grove.

Status: *An EA and FONSI were prepared and made available for public review in October, 2003. One comment was received. A final decision on this proposal is expected in late Summer, 2004.*

Wolf Creek Watershed

Project: Point-a-Panther Timber Sale

Contact: Alan Corbin (683-6792)

Location: T19S, R6W, Sec 13

Description: The proposed timber sale lies approximately 5 miles south of Crow in the Matrix Land Use Allocation. Regeneration timber harvest is being considered on approximately 90 acres.

Status: *This project was originally proposed in 1999, and an environmental assessment was released in July, 1999. Since then, survey and manage surveys have been completed, and a new environmental assessment is being prepared. We anticipate that the EA will be available for public review in the summer of 2004.*

Project: Saleratus Creek Enhancement Project

Contact: Rob Preece (683-7184)

Location: T.18S, R.7W, Section 31

Description: In FY 1994, in-stream enhancement work was completed and consisted of placing 21 logs (uncabled) in 0.25 miles of Saleratus Creek along road 18-7-31.1 up to the junction of road 18-7-31. Since FY 1994, the downstream movement of these logs have been annually monitored to get a better understanding of cut-log migrations and consequent structural formations and subsequent woody debris accumulations. The proposed project is to re-access the 1994 project area and utilizing on and off site large woody debris, enhance those degraded areas within the project reach.

Status: *Open for Scoping. Environmental Assessment is expected to be available for review and comment in winter 2004.*

Long Tom Watershed

Project: Get Ready Timber Sale

Contact: Peter O' Toole (683-6786)

Location: T 16 S, R 7 W, Sec 25

Description: The project proposal is to thin approx 135 acres of 35-55 year old stands of second growth timber. The project area lies within the Matrix and Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocation.

Status: *An environmental assessment was completed by the interdisciplinary team and made available for a 30 day public review. One comment letter was received. A decision notice is expected to be published by March 2004.*

Project: Dead Horse Timber Sale

Contact: Peter O' Toole (683-6786)

Location: T 15 S, R 6 W, Secs 21 & 27

Description: The project proposal is to thin approx 155 acres of 35-45 year old stands of second growth timber. The project area lies within the Matrix and Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocation.

Status: *The Interdisciplinary Team completed the draft environmental assessment in the fall/winter 2003. An environmental assessment is expected to be available for public review by winter/spring 2004.*

Wildcat and Lake Creek Watersheds

Project: Rusty Nel, Timber Sale

Contact: Janet Zentner (683-6496)

Location: T17S, R7W, Sec. 7

Description: The proposed action is a regeneration harvest sale in the Matrix Land Use Allocation. The action would involve approximately 100 acres of 63-66 year old timber in a 320 acre project area. The area is approximately 7 air miles west and 3.5 air miles south of Noti, Oregon and is located in the Wildcat and Lake Creek Watersheds.

Status: *An environmental assessment was published and available for a 30 day comment period. Four comment letters were received. A notice of the decision record should be available this winter 2004.*

Project: Shady Creek Enhancement Project

Contact: Rob Preece (683-7184)

Location: T.17S, R.7W, Section 29

Description: Shady Creek is a 3rd order tributary to Chickahomny Creek (a major tributary to Wildcat Creek). The BLM currently manages approximately 0.25 stream miles of Shady Creek along road 17-729.1. The proposed cooperative project would include the addition of large woody debris (LWD) to the stream

channel in both private and BLM lands to provide immediate cover, trap stream substrates and aggrade downcut channels, and provide deep rearing pools. In addition, some planting of conifers along the stream is proposed to provide future potential “in-stream” recruitment in a riparian system that is dominated by hardwoods (mostly red alder) and salmon berry. This project would involve multiple participants which include the Siuslaw Watershed Council, neighboring landowners, BLM, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Status: *Open for Scoping. An Environmental Assessment is expected to be available for review during winter 2004.*

Project: Wildcat Creek Enhancement Project

Contact: Rob Preece (683-7184)

Location: T.18S, R.6W, Sections 13 and 19

Description: This project proposal in Section 13 would be a continuation of restoration efforts started in 2002. The proposal would be to work with Roseburg Forest Products (RFP) to remove a barrier culvert near the west of the boundary of Sections 19 and 20 in road 18-6-30.1 and in Section 13 add structure to the stream channel in 1.5 miles of degraded habitat to provide immediate cover, trap stream substrates and aggrade downcut channels, and provide deep rearing pools.

Status: *Open for Scoping. Environmental Assessment is expected to be available for review in winter 2004.*

Upper Siuslaw Watersheds

Project: Whittaker Creek Old Growth Trail Extension

Contact: Dennis Smith (683-6296)

Location: T.18S., R.8W., Section 21

Description: The proposed trail extension would start at a point along the ascent and begin a gradual descent back to the Whittaker Creek Campground.

Status: *Preliminary planning and route location have been completed. Open for Scoping comment. An environmental assessment is expected to be available for comment in April 2004.*

Project Name: Leopold Creek Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project

Contact: Leo Poole (683-6289)

Location: T19S R8W Section 17

Description: For FY2004, instream structures will be placed in the channel to raise the channel elevation and increase the complexity of habitat in a unnamed tributary of Leopold Creek. The project is expected to commence in August - September.

Status: *A DNA tiered to environmental assessment OR-090-EA-00-14 would be completed winter 2004. Work would be completed as funding becomes available.*

Project Name: Whittaker Creek Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project

Contact: Leo Poole (683-6289)

Location: T18S R8W Sections 28,31,32

Description: Undersized and barrier culverts that prevent the natural migration of aquatic species will be replaced with larger non barrier passages or removed. The project is expected to commence in July-September 2004.

Status: *A site specific addendum to EA-OR-090-EA-96-11, dated 4/7/00, was prepared to evaluate site specific project design of this project.*