

# Memo

**To:** Andy White, Northwest Oregon Area Director

**From:** Mike Totey, West Oregon District Forester

**CC:** Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief  
Brian Pew, State Forests Deputy Division Chief

**Date:** June 8, 2019

**Re:** Information Item - Approved Annual Operations Plan for 2020

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The 2020 State Forests Annual Operations Plan for the West Oregon District is attached for your review and approval. During my review of this plan, I have found that it is consistent with the Northwest Forest Management Plan, the 2012 West Oregon District Implementation Plan (IP), and the 2020 Annual Operations Planning guidance.

This Annual Operations Plan (AOP) covers proposed forest management activities for fiscal year 2020. The seven primary sales included in this AOP are projected to generate 13.4 MMBF of volume.

Consistent with the Program's 2020 AOP guidance, the District has included four alternate sales, which were subjected to the same process of review and public comment as the primary sales.

These alternate sales may be used to replace primary sales that cannot be completed as planned. The alternate sales also allow flexibility for the program to respond to additional direction or policy changes that may be proposed by the Board of Forestry or State Forester. Such policy changes may directly or indirectly influence harvest levels during the 2020 fiscal year.

During its preparation, this plan was reviewed by technical specialists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Their comments were received verbally at the District's AOP meeting or in emailed comments. Their comments have been documented and are on file at the district office. The draft annual operations plan also underwent a 45-day public comment period, where three comments were received. One comment proposed to increase timber harvest levels and to also revisit logging/roads appraisal costs and to explore rockpit development on district lands. One comment indicated that they were satisfied that the AOP is consistent with the goals and objectives of the IP. The third comment stated that clearcut harvest should be increased, commercial thinning decreased and that the district should look to industrial managed lands for the most efficient and cost-effective methods. Harvest levels were reviewed and are in alignment with the district's Implementation Plan. The district will continue to look for efficiency and cost-effectiveness in our management practices. There are no changes to the annual operations plan based on these public comments. However, the district chose to remove two alternate commercial thinning sales from the plan after the public comment period had ended. One sale was partially in a NSO circle, the other in the buffer of a MMMA and both were deemed moderate risk of take by ODF wildlife biologists.

Approval of this plan does not constitute final approval of individual project details. Individual timber sales are subject to additional review processes at the district and program staff level before approval for auction. The operations described in this plan may be modified during the final preparation and/or implementation. Modifications to these operations will conform to the process included in the 2020 Annual Operations Planning guidance.

Reforestation activities are aligned with FMP objectives and budget considerations. Road management to provide safe, efficient access will be accomplished through timber sale contracts and a minor amount through small service contracts. The FY20 AOP and fiscal budget do not include any new recreation facilities, recreation staff, and very minimal recreation support.

The official copy of this Annual Operations Plan will be on file at the district office. Additional copies are available at the State Forests Program office in Salem.

The plan is also available on the ODF web site at:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Working/Pages/StateForests.aspx>

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Totey, District Forester, West Oregon District

6/25/19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# **WEST OREGON DISTRICT 2020 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN**



*"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"*

# WEST OREGON DISTRICT

## 2020 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

### OVERVIEW

This plan describes the activities and outcomes that Oregonians can expect to see on State Forests in the West Oregon District for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 2019 - June 2020).

Forests on the West Oregon District are actively managed, and are valued by many Oregonians for their 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 of high quality, allowing for off-highway vehicle usage, bicycling, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and more, striving to minimize user and environmental conflicts in the context of a working forest.

Managing a large 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 Board of Forestry (Forest Development Fund (FDF)) timber sales go to local counties and other taxing districts, including schools. The revenue on "Common School Fund" Lands (CSL), owned by the State Land Board, goes directly to the Common School Fund which is managed by the Department of State Lands. ODF uses the remaining third of the FDF 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. These activities on CSL are funded by billing the Department of State Lands. Financial constraints and a reduction in state forests staffing is currently limiting the ability to conduct many activities. You will see this theme throughout the year's plan.

Every year on the West Oregon District, we learn new things and find new challenges and opportunities. In preparing this plan, we have consulted with geotechnical specialists, wildlife biologists, fish biologists, aquatic specialists and engineers; and will be seeking input from local tribes, adjacent landowners, and a variety of interest groups.

ODF will be requested review and comments on our plan from others, including the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (representing the counties that deeded land to ODF), the State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC - composed of Oregonians representing many interests), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, motorized and non-motorized recreation users, hunters, fishermen, and wildlife advocates, as well as Oregonians in general. The public comment period ran from March 18 – May 2, 2019.



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

- Planting 160,000 trees on 400 acres and conducting vegetation and animal damage management activities on approximately 900 acres to ensure the survival and growth of these plantations.
- Maintaining a 315 mile road network that provides access to timber harvest, other forest management activities, as well as various recreational opportunities. Improve and maintain roads to ensure ditch water is dispersed and filtered, keeping runoff from entering streams.
- Conducting surveys for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets to protect their habitat and comply with federal laws. Surveying numerous streams for the presence of fish.
- Protecting streams and water resources through implementation of buffers and seasonal restrictions on activities.
- Habitat development activities such as retaining green trees in clearcut areas, and leaving down wood, all for wildlife benefits in harvest areas and future forests.
- Reviewing District roads to develop plans to block or vacate roads to help manage trash dumping, off-road use and irresponsible target shooting.
- Beginning the planning cycle to harvest approximately 13.4 million board feet of timber volume, through timber harvest operations, generating revenue of an estimated \$6.1 Million. This harvest level is in alignment with longer term plans and modeling to ensure it is sustainable and promotes the development of a mixture of habitat types across the landscape.
- Providing a safe and clean environment for the myriad of dispersed activities that occur across the forest – hunting, camping, angling, sight-seeing, target shooting, mushroom picking, etc.
- Maintaining and managing the existing motorized and non-motorized trail networks through adopt-a-trail agreements, while striving to protect the trail investments, provide for user safety, and protect trees, wildlife and water quality.
- Supporting the pre-planned organized motorized and non-motorized events. Evaluating new recreational proposals for fit with forest goals.
- Providing a firewood cutting program and miscellaneous forest products permits (salal, mushrooms, etc.).
- Supporting ongoing research and educational opportunities on the district, in partnership with research cooperatives and universities. Among other opportunities, the district will again this year present at and host Oregon State University's College of Forestry Reforestation Class and the Senior Capstone Class. District employees will also continue to accept speaking opportunities with local philanthropic organizations.

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# WEST OREGON DISTRICT

## 2020 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

This annual operations plan (AOP) is written in alignment to the district's 2012 Implementation Plan. The AOP covers the State Forest lands managed by the West Oregon District for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, which begins July 1, 2019 and ends June 30, 2020. It describes how the activities and projects undertaken by the district will achieve the goals and objectives of the 2012 West Oregon District Implementation Plan (IP) and the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan (FMP). Refer to the district IP for more specific information on history, physical characteristics, and other resource information on the district.

The management activities planned for FY 2020 are based on the range of objectives established in the *2012 West Oregon District Implementation Plan* (Table 1 below), which are described in the 2015 IP Minor Modification addressed below, as well as the assumption that budget allotments will be similar to FY 2019.

This AOP proposes a minor modification of the Landscape Design. The modification will be finalized and approved prior to the approval of the AOP. Appendix F outlines the proposed IP Landscape Design modification. The summary document of the AOP is divided into five categories: Integrated Forest Management, Planning, Public Information and Education, Administration, and Appendices.

The proposed harvest operations are planned to be laid out, contracts completed, and auctioned or submitted to Salem for processing during the FY 2020 time period. The actual on-the-ground operations will likely not occur during FY2020 due to the time lag associated with contract duration, which range from one to three years after auction. In contrast, the proposed reforestation, young stand management, recreation management, and planning activities will be carried out during the FY 2020 time period. Proposed harvest operations will generate income for Benton and Lincoln Counties and their taxing districts and for the Common School Fund. Harvest income will also contribute to the financial viability of the State Forests Division. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute's (OFRI) 2019-20 Forest Facts publication sites an economic estimate that every 1 million board feet of timber harvested creates or retains about 11 forest sector jobs.

A 45-day public comment period ran from March 18, 2019 through May 2, 2019. The District Forester considered the comments received during this period and made changes or modifications that are determined necessary, prior to approving the AOP.



At the close of the public comment period, the District Forester will forward these changes with any public comments to the Area Director and State Forester for review and approval. Appendix D describes the results of the public involvement process of this AOP.

The accomplishment of forest management activities that occurred under previous AOPs can be found in several reports, including the “State Forester’s Annual Report for the Association of Oregon Counties, the “Common School Forest Lands Annual Report”, and the individual district annual reports (these reports also cover the accomplishments of the Fire Protection and Private Forests Programs). These reports are available through the local district office or through the Oregon Department of Forestry website at <http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/reports.aspx>.

## INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

### Timber Harvest Operations

#### **Overview of Timber Harvest Operations**

Planned timber harvest operations are within the total acreage range objective in the District Implementation Plan (IP). Activities in the AOP will contribute revenue to the counties and Common School Fund with the overall objective of harvesting 13.4 MMBF.

The FY2020 harvest operations are projected to generate gross revenues of approximately \$6,065,800. With an approximate total project work cost of \$340,000 anticipated, the net revenue produced is expected to be about \$5,725,800. Of this net revenue, approximately \$5,131,900 will be generated from Board of Forestry lands and the remaining \$593,900 will come from Common School lands. Refer to the Appendix A, “Timber Harvest Operations - Financial Summary” table for more detail on harvest volumes and values.

In addition to revenue from timber sales, the district is anticipating selling 40-60 minor forest products permits resulting in an additional \$7,000 to \$10,000 of revenue.

Table 1 compares the proposed acres by harvest type<sup>1</sup> and the resulting volume in this AOP to the harvest acre ranges and volume specified in the 2015 IP Minor Modification. There are seven primary sales with a total planned harvest acreage of 730 net acres (approximately 2.0% of the district’s total acreage). Volume is 13.4 MMBF (12.0 MMBF conifer and 1.4 MMBF hardwood) which is above the annual volume objective. The anticipated harvest

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<sup>1</sup> The definitions of the harvest types used to describe timber harvesting on State Forests can be found on the [State Forests website](#) under Forest Management and Planning. Briefly, a Modified Clearcut is the most common of three type of Regeneration Harvest (or clearcut) that may occur on State Forests. The defining characteristics of Modified Clearcuts are that they meet the structural component standards of the FMP (green tree, snag, and down wood).

acres, volume, and revenue for each proposed operation in this AOP are listed in the “Harvest Operations – Financial Summary” table in Appendix A, while a vicinity map of these harvest operations can be found in Appendix B.

The objective is to achieve the average of the Annual Harvest Objective (AHO) over the expected duration for the IP. Under normal circumstances, the volume proposed in an AOP will be near the AHO target; however, some events may result in an AOP volume that is farther from the AHO target. These events may consist of, but are not limited to, storm damage, insect and/or disease outbreaks, timber market conditions or other significant events. Alternate timber sales included in this AOP may be sold as primary operations in response to any of these circumstances.

Table 1. Annual Operations Plan objectives compared to annual objectives identified in the 2012 West Oregon District Implementation Plan (modified in 2015). Harvest values are in net acres.

Annual Harvest Objectives	Modified IP Annual Objective		2020 AOP Objective
	Low	High	
<b>Volume (MMBF)</b>	<b>12.0</b>		<b>13.4</b>
Partial Cut Harvest	0	1,200	459
Regeneration Harvest	255	400	271

The net acres listed in Table 1 and in the individual Pre-Operation Reports (Appendix E) excludes the acreage contained in roads, stream buffers and no-harvest areas within the operation areas. The net acres reflect the amount of ground that will actually be harvested.

The district has included 4 alternate operations in this AOP. These alternate operations may be used to replace primary operations that cannot be completed as planned.

All of the primary and alternate harvest operations and many of the other forest management activities have been review by ODF’s wildlife biologists, aquatic specialist, geotechnical engineer, staff engineer, and operations coordinator, as well as fish and wildlife biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Information on operations that will occur within non-habitat buffers of Marbled Murrelet Management Areas has been provided to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Occasionally, operations may contain a resource or activity where review with another state agency, such as the Department of Agriculture or the Department of State Lands, is warranted. Written comments from the external resource specialists and the resolution of those comments can be found in Appendix C.

Some smaller additional operations targeting infrastructure maintenance may also produce timber volume during the 2020 fiscal year. These small operations are not included as part of the AOP because they affect a very small area, produce little volume or revenue, and do not require significant effort to develop and execute.

During FY 2020, regeneration harvests on the District will all be modified clearcuts. Partial cut harvests will include both light and moderate thinning.

**Regeneration Harvest** - The IP states that regeneration harvesting will occur primarily in areas designated as DFC GEN. Most of these harvests will be in Understory (UDS) stands and some will be in Closed Single Canopy (CSC) stands. The 271 acres of modified clearcut harvest (Primary Operations) in this plan consists of four timber sales. Stands range in age from 28 - 98 years old. In these Primary sales, 267 acres are located in areas designated as DFC GEN and 4 acres are located in areas designated as DFC Complex. The DFC of these 4 acres will be changed in a minor modification to the IP (see Appendix F). The current condition of this stand is UDS. Another 42 acres of modified clearcut harvest acreage, designated as Alternate Operations in the plan, will also be changed from DFC Complex to DFC Gen.

**Partial Cut Harvest** – The majority of operation areas included in this AOP will employ standard thinning prescriptions on stands designated as DFC GEN. In the FY 2020 operations plan, 459 acres of the partial cutting (Primary Operations) are planned in three timber sales. These stands range in age from 31 - 39 years old. Most stands are designated as DFC GEN, with a few acres of DFC LYR which are in the non-habitat buffer of a MMMA. All stands designated for thinning consist primarily of Douglas-fir with some western hemlock, red alder, and Bigleaf maple and are currently classified mostly as CSC or UDS stand types. See Appendix A, Forest Structure Summary.

Table 2 illustrates the planned versus sold volume history over the life of the current District IP. The planned harvest volume for FY 2020 is above the annual IP harvest objective in order to make up for previous years volume deficits.

Table 2. Accomplishment of AOP Harvest Volume Compared to IP Annual Objective (MMBF)

Fiscal Year	IP Annual Objective	AOP Planned Volume	AOP Sold Volume	Cumulative Difference from Objective <sup>1</sup>
2013	10.0	10.0	7.8	-2.2
2014	12.0	12.0	11.3	-2.9
2015	12.0	13.2	9.6	-5.3
2016	12.0	13.4	12.8	-4.5
2017	12.0	12.8	12.9	-3.6
2018	12.0	11.8	13.4	-2.2
2019 (Current AOP) <sup>2</sup>	12.0	12.4	9.6	-4.6
2020 (Draft AOP)	12.0	13.4	0	

1. IP Harvest Objective versus Sold Volume

2. Estimated Volume based on completion (prepared and sold volume). One district 2019 sale went no-bid. This sale will not be put up again for auction, three sales will be auctioned at the beginning of FY '20.

## Structural Habitat Components

Structural habitat components such as green trees, snags and Down Woody Debris (DWD) are described in Chapter 4 of the NW FMP and may be considered for all harvest prescriptions.

The green tree retention target for regeneration harvest units is five trees per acre. Green tree arrangements for this AOP include; scattered individual trees, clumps of trees, and trees concentrated in and adjacent to riparian management areas.

The FMP strategy for hard snags is to manage for at least two per acre on average across the landscape. The need for snag creation for regeneration sales is evaluated on a sale by sale basis.

The FMP strategy for Down Woody Debris is to retain an average of 600 to 900 cubic feet of hard conifer logs per acre (class 1 & 2) during regeneration harvest. Stand Level Inventory data indicates that there is approximately 200 cubic feet of Class 1 & 2 conifer DWD per acre over the district. These numbers do not include additions from recent ice or wind events or all of the snags & DWD created with recent timber sale contracts.

Another opportunity for natural recruitment of snags and DWD is created by laminated root rot disease (*Phellinus weirii*). In severe cases of root rot, we attempt to arrest the spread of the disease by cutting out the infected trees. In other cases we do not cut out the infected trees. This allows the disease to spread at a rate of approximately one foot per year, slowly adding snags and DWD to the stand. Whether laminated root rot is treated or untreated, we know from experience that additional trees will be infected by the disease, creating snags and eventually DWD.

Within a given annual operations plan, snags and DWD may be retained at higher levels in some units and at lower levels in other units, with the intent of achieving the landscape targets outlined in the Forest Management Plan strategies. Post-harvest DWD results can be attributed to natural recruitment from green tree retention, residual logging slash, and tree topping.

Snag and Down Wood Inputs – Across the four proposed primary sale modified clearcuts an average of five trees per acre will be left standing, providing future legacy trees. Over time, through natural processes, some of them will become down wood and snags. Where there are existing snags in these harvest areas, an attempt will be made to leave some of them were they do not pose a safety risk. No effort will be made to add more.

## **Landscape Design**

The landscape design is a long term vision of the Desired Future Condition (DFC) for an array of stand structures across the district. Areas designated to become complex forest are indicated as either Layered (LYR) or Older Forest Structure (OFS). Stands not planned for LYR or OFS are designated as General (GEN) and include Regeneration (REG) stands, Closed Single Canopy (CSC) stands and Understory (UDS) stands. Areas that are not forested (such as meadows or rock outcroppings) are termed Non Forested (NF). A stand with a DFC of GEN may develop into any of the five stand structures defined in the Northwest Forest Management Plan.

The District's vision for future development of complex and general stands on the landscape is described and mapped in the 2012 District Implementation Plan. The Landscape Design has a goal of at least 31 percent of the district stands to be DFC – Complex structure, either Layered (LYR) or Older Forest Structure (OFS). The "Timber

Harvest Operations – Forest Structure Summary” table in Appendix A provides an overview of the current condition of the Primary Harvest Operations and their anticipated stand structure five to ten years after harvesting has been completed. In addition, this table provides a summary of the Desired Future Condition of the Primary Harvest Operations.

The district will implement silvicultural prescriptions that are consistent with the mapped DFC, which take into account stand health and the ability of the present stand to achieve the DFC designation.

The development of the landscape design during implementation planning is generally conducted at the stand level or higher using the best available information at the time, with the recognition that some minor changes will be necessary during operational planning. This year the district is proposing a Minor Modification to the Landscape Design of approximately 57 acres. This minor modification is detailed in Appendix F.

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

The IP implemented the State Forests’ Species of Concern Strategies that specifically identifies fish and wildlife species of concern on the West Oregon District. Two of these strategies are Terrestrial Anchor Sites (TAS) and Aquatic Anchor (AA) sites.

Terrestrial Anchor Sites (TAS) are intended to benefit terrestrial wildlife species of concern, especially those associated with older forest or interior habitat conditions, those sensitive to forest fragmentation, or those that do not readily disperse across younger forest conditions. Management within a TAS is intended to be limited. When it does occur, it should emulate natural small-scale disturbance patterns, and should minimize short- term negative impacts to habitat. All areas that were designated as TAS were designated for the development of complex structure in the Landscape Design.

Aquatic Anchor (AA) sites are watersheds where salmon and aquatic amphibian conservation is of concern. Riparian management strategies beyond those described in the FMP will be applied within AAs. In addition, areas designated for the development of complex structure in the Landscape Design are clustered around streams important to fish in the AAs.

The Species of Concern Strategies provide long term goals for TAS and AA, with the management activities within those areas designed to achieve those goals. These strategies have not identified specific limits to the total area that can be harvested within these areas; however, the district and resource specialist will be tracking the harvest trends within these areas to ensure the harvest prescriptions and rate is consistent with the goals of these strategies.

Since the adoption of the TAS in 2012, the district has not planned an operation in these areas. In the future, great care will be given in selecting stands for harvest and developing prescriptions in these areas to ensure that these harvest activities achieve the goals of the TAS.

Table 3 summarizes harvest operations within the TAS proposed in the 2020 AOP and the cumulative operations planned in TAS since the strategy was adopted (AOPs 2013 through 2020).

Table 3. Summary of Harvest Operations within TAS (Net Acres and Percent)

Terrestrial Anchor Site (TAS)	Current AOP (FY 2020) Planned Harvest		Cumulative Sold/Planned Harvest (AOP 2013 to Present)	
	Clearcut	Partial Cut	Clearcut	Partial Cut
Entire District	271	459	2,334	2,763
Total – 36,633 ac % of Acres	< 1%	1%	6.4%	7.5%
<b>Green Mountain</b>	0	0	0	0
Total – 1,625 ac % of Acres	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Wolf Creek</b>	0	0	0	0
Total – 1,001 ac % of Acres	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All TAS	0	0	0	0
Total – 2,626 ac % of Acres	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 4 summarizes harvest operations within the AAs proposed in the 2020 AOP and the cumulative operations in AAs since the strategy was adopted (AOPs 2013 through 2020).

Table 4. Summary of Harvest Operations within AA (Net Acres and Percent on ODF)

Aquatic Anchors (AA)	Current AOP (FY 2020) Planned Harvest		Cumulative Sold/Planned Harvest (AOP 2013 to Present)	
	Clearcut	Partial Cut	Clearcut	Partial Cut
Entire District	271	459	2,334	2,763
Total – 36,633 ac. % of Acres	<1%	1%	6.4%	7.5%
<b>Rock Creek</b>	1	124	230	227
Total – 4,768 ac % of Acres	<1%	2.5%	5%	5%
<b>Upper Yaquina – Amphibian Emphasis</b>	0	38	76	38
Total – 3,493 ac % of Acres	<1%	1%	2%	1%
<b>Wolf Creek</b>	78	0	228	173
Total – 3,194 ac % of Acres	2.5%	0%	7.0%	5.5%
All Aquatic Anchors	79	162	534	438
Total – 11,455 ac % of Acres	<1%	1.5%	4.5%	4.0%

## Summary of Timber Harvest Operations by Basin

In the following section, the commercial forest management operations planned for FY20 will be summarized in the context of the five management basins on the West Oregon District. This section is a summary of the operations by basin and is not meant to completely describe the planned operation. Individual pre-operation reports include information regarding riparian protection and structural components such as snags, down wood, and green tree retention (see Appendix E).

Table 5. Summary of Timber Harvest Operations (Primary Sales) in each basin. All values are in net acres.

Basin	2020 AOP	
	Partial Cut	Clearcut
Big Elk Creek	0	78
Luckiamute River	0	58
Marys River	0	0
Siletz River	252	0
Upper Yaquina River	207	135

### **Big Elk Creek Basin**

Wolf Junction (Primary Sale) – This sale is a 78 acre modified clearcut of 57 to 87 year-old Douglas-fir and red alder. Most of the sale consists of a natural stand which was thinned in around 2002, a portion of the sale is a planted stand. The entire sale area is located in this management basin. The sale is in the Wolf Creek Aquatic Anchor. Increased protection measures along small perennial Type N streams will be implemented. Approximately 18% of the sale is on Common School Land.

Harlan Hangover (Alternate Sale) – This sale is a modified clearcut of 71 acres in a natural stand of primarily 87 year-old timber. Most of the sale area was thinned in 2005, a small portion was also thinned in 1997. There are older trees along the stream, many of which will be left as part of the stream buffer. Approximately 40% of the sale is on Common School Land.

### **Luckiamute River Basin**

SoHo (Primary Sale) – This sale is a 58 acre modified clearcut of 40 to 90 year-old Douglas-fir. Most of the sale consists of planted stands, all of which have been commercially thinned in the past.

There are no alternate operations planned in this basin for FY 2020.

### **Marys River Basin**

There are no Primary Sales in this basin in the FY 2020 plan.

## **Siletz River Basin**

Green Acres Thin (Primary Sale) – This proposed partial cut sale consists of three areas totaling 161 acres. Areas 1 and 2 are located in this basin, Area 3 is located in the Upper Yaquina River Basin. All are plantations comprised of 31 to 34 year-old Douglas-fir. Portions of all three areas are located in the non-habitat buffer of either the South Fork Rock Creek or the Lower Yaquina MMMA. Seasonal restrictions and other protection measures will be required. Records indicate that a historic Native American trail may have run through portions of Area 1 and Area 3. At the start of sale preparation, foresters will look for signs of this trail. Areas 1 and 2 are in the Little Rock Creek Aquatic Anchor.

Little Thin on the Prairie (Primary Sale) – This proposed sale consists of three partial cut units totaling 129 net acres. These areas consist of 39 year old Douglas-fir plantations. Portions of all areas are located in the non-habitat buffer of the West Prairie MMMA. Seasonal restrictions and other protection measures will be required. This sale is 100% Common School Land.

Just In Beaver (Alternate Sale) – This proposed sale consists of two modified clearcut areas totaling 53 net acres. Trees range from 43 year-old Red alder to 83 year-old Douglas-fir, portions of the areas were thinned in around 2000. The sale is within the Rock Creek Aquatic Anchor. Because of this, increased protection measures along small perennial Type N streams will be implemented. This sale is 26% Common School Land.

## **Upper Yaquina River Basin**

Green Acres Thin (Primary Sale) – Area 3 is located in this basin, but the majority (Areas 1 and 2) is located in the Siletz River Basin. See description under the Siletz River Basin.

Cline Miller Thin (Primary Sale) – This sale is comprised of three partial cut areas that total 169 acres. All are 34 year-old Douglas-fir plantations. A portion of Area 3 lies within the non-habitat buffer of the Wolf Creek MMMA. Seasonal restrictions and other protection measures will be required. This sale is 4% Common School Land.

Stone Age (Primary Sale) – This one area proposed modified clearcut is 90 acres of 73 – 98 year-old Douglas-fir with pockets of red alder and scattered bigleaf maple. One-third of the area was commercially thinned in 2005. A small portion of the sale is located in the Little Rock Creek Aquatic Anchor, but no streams are located in this portion.

Bear Claw (Primary Sale) – There are two areas in this sale which are modified clearcuts totaling 45 acres. They are 43 to 48 year-old Douglas-fir plantations with scattered red alder.



A Mt. Baber ATV Club motorized trail runs along the road system at the south end of both areas.

Just In Baber (Alternate Sale) – This single unit clearcut sale is comprised of 91 – 96 year-old Douglas-fir and scattered Red alder and Bigleaf maple. 25% of the sale acreage is an administrative site and those funds will go towards the district protection fund. A Mt. Baber ATV Club motorized trail runs along the south edge of the sale.

## Forest Roads Management

The primary transportation focus is to protect and secure access for forest management activities. This involves constructing new roads where needed, vacating old roads that no longer meet current standards, and maintaining or upgrading existing roads. Other resource management activities and other users are also considered in the transportation planning. The approximately 315 mile transportation system provides access for timber removal, recreation, fire control and removal of other forest products.

Visions, guiding principles, and techniques that are the framework of the District's road management program are discussed in detail in the IP and govern the planning and implementation of the activities discussed in this section. Planning of these activities are Level III plans.

As listed in Appendix A "Forest Roads Summary" table, it is estimated that 0.7 miles of new road construction and about 18.5 miles of road improvements will be included with the FY 2020 operations plan. These roads will provide improved access for hauling forest products from the operation areas.

The District has conducted a detailed inventory of the District's road system, collecting information on road surfacing, condition, drainage, and stream crossings. This inventory was completed in conjunction with the Oregon Salmon Plan. This is a dated inventory system and we do not currently have the capacity to update it. For the FY 2020 operations plan, existing roads and drainage systems on designated haul routes of timber sales have been evaluated to determine high priority road or drainage structure maintenance, abandonment, replacement, or improvement projects.

Road maintenance and improvement will be mostly confined to the haul routes and will be part of timber sale project work. Some roadside brushing and spraying may occur outside of the haul routes, but in the vicinity of a timber sale. There will be no road vacating. The District has planned for wet weather, limited wet weather, and dry weather hauling by using existing rocked roads, improving existing dirt roads to a surfaced condition and surfacing some new construction. Drainage structures that are in need of replacement, and are on the haul routes, will be replaced with the timber sale that will use that haul route.

Road maintenance will consist of re-shaping roads with a road grader, and applying spot rock where needed. Replacement of wear rock due to hauling will be applied post-harvest. Road improvement will consist of re-opening existing unsurfaced roads and applying a lift of

rock for winter harvest operations, adding lifts of rock to existing surfaced roads, road widening, side-cast pull-back and drainage structure upgrades. Drainage structure maintenance will consist of cleaning culvert inlets and outlets.

Emergency road repairs will be covered through timber sale contract modifications or service contracts. Deferred maintenance and/or repairs may be necessary.

## **Road Construction**

Activities under this Plan will add approximately 0.7 miles of roads to the District's active road system. Since the collector roads are already in place on the district, any new roads will be short, low use, single lane spur roads averaging 16 feet wide. Approximately 25% of the roads to be constructed will be rocked with base rock, providing an all season surface for harvest operations. Natural surfacing will be the final condition for the remaining new roads. The natural surface roads will be water barred, and blocked to restrict public vehicle access after harvest and/or prior to the beginning of the wet season. Restricting access to natural surface roads will control soil erosion and ensure that the drainage systems remain intact.

All roads to be constructed are planned to be built on gentle to moderate slopes and stable topography to minimize slope stability concerns, soil erosion, and downstream water quality issues. However, if it is determined during timber sale layout that a new road must be constructed through steeper terrain, the staff engineer and area geo-technical specialist will be contacted and requested to conduct an onsite inspection and provide input related to mitigating any negative effects of road construction.

All road construction is classified as surfaced or unsurfaced spurs. All newly constructed roads will be built on side slopes less than 65% or on ridge tops. End-haul and full bench construction will be required on slopes exceeding 50%. All excavated material will be used in the constructed road prism or placed in stable waste areas. All road construction projects are directly associated with this year's sale plan.

## **Road Improvement**

All road improvement projects are associated with commercial forest management operations and consist of upgrading the wet weather haul capacity of the road. Improvement activities will be performed mainly on haul routes and in-unit spur roads and will be accomplished using a dozer or road grader. There are no drainage structure issues associated with any spur improvement.

## **Road Access Management**

All surfaced and newly constructed or improved unsurfaced roads are categorized as active use roads. The unsurfaced roads not located behind a locked gate, will be blocked and water barred in the wet season. After the wet season, these roads may be re-opened and

harvest activities may resume. Once harvesting is completed, these roads will be blocked, water barred, and temporary culverts removed until the next harvest entry. Road surfaces may be grass seeded to reduce erosion and protect water quality.

All primary haul routes which access the FY2020 timber sales are surfaced, all weather roads and are generally accessible to the public. There are exceptions where these roads pass through private timber lands and are gated. Easements are already in place for 5 of the 7 primary sale's haul routes. The district will need to gain temporary access permits across private lands on two of the primary sales. No approach permits to county roads are required for the FY 2020 timber sales.

## **Road Maintenance**

Maintenance required for timber sales will be mainly limited to haul routes, or in the immediate vicinity of a timber sale. Graded haul routes will have the ditches and culvert catch basins cleaned where needed. Where significant, slough material will be removed from ditch lines or road surfaces and placed in stable waste areas.

Road maintenance for roads being used for timber sale access becomes the responsibility of the timber sale purchaser once sale activity has begun.

If a storm event causes a need for road repair or maintenance in the vicinity of a timber sale, then an attempt will be made to modify the sale to include this repair. If emergency road repair can't be conducted through a timber sale modification, then it will be taken care of through a service contract. The district has a limited amount of money budgeted towards road repair projects.

## **Roadside Spraying**

Roadside vegetation control is conducted along roads with encroaching vegetation. The objective is to reduce vegetation along "right-of-ways" for improved sight distance for safety, maintaining access, and protecting the investment in the transportation infrastructure. In the previous year, limited roadside spray work was conducted through two timber sale contracts with mixed results. The district will evaluate the need for roadside spraying during FY 2020 sale preparation and will consider adding this type of work to timber sale road project work. The district will continue to use the Mill Creek inmate crew to conduct manual roadside vegetation control. There will likely be additional needed roadside spraying that will have to be deferred. It is unknown at this time how many miles the district will be able to treat.

District activities to control roadside noxious weeds consists primarily of controlling Scotch broom, false brome and black berries. Most of these infestations start along roads and spread from there. Other species, which are occasionally targeted for control, include knotweeds, reed canary grass and meadow knapweed. No specific roadside noxious weed control is planned during this fiscal year, but if a need is identified, it will be accomplished by district personnel. This will be spot treatment, utilizing backpack sprayers.

Additionally, all logging equipment will be inspected for cleanliness and washed if necessary before entering and leaving STATE lands to control the spread of noxious weeds.

## **Management of Rock Supply**

The district does not contain any rock pits, therefore rock must be purchased from an outside source and trucked to project work sites. Purchased rock (and rock hauling) is expensive and often constitutes a large portion of project work costs. By developing stockpiles at strategic spots around the district and stocking them as part of high value timber sale's project work, the rock can be used and costs reduced on other timber sales which have less financial viability. There are 12 stockpiles on the district which are currently stocked with rock, with 100-1,000 cy per stockpile. Two FY 2020 sales will fill 2 additional stockpile sites that are currently empty. One of the partial cut sales in the FY 2020 sale plan will use rock from one of these stockpiles. Overall, the district will continue to maintain rock stockpile volumes in FY 2020 at about the same level as in previous years.

## Land Surveying

Approximately 1.0 mile of property line may require surveying. Another 2.0 miles will be run with a hand compass and off-set onto STATE. Numerous property corners will need to be located and their associated bearing trees painted. The district has budgeted \$15,000 to conduct this survey work.

## Reforestation and Young Stand Management

The purpose of conducting reforestation and young stand management operations is to prepare for, establish, or maintain a new forest, or new forest layer, through operations such as site preparation, tree planting and protection, vegetation management, pre-commercial thinning, and pruning. Another operation often associated with, but not limited to, young stand management is invasive species control. Through the use of these operations many of the silvicultural goals and objectives of the FMP and IP are met.

Specific information regarding operations can be found in Appendix A, "Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary" table, and in the discussion, below.

Due to current budget limitations, reforestation and young stand management activities are limited to those essential to forest establishment. Accordingly, these activities are readily supported within the base budget. Alternatively, other management operations such as stocking density control (Pre-commercial Thinning), pruning and low priority vegetation management (release), are not fully funded, but will be at least partially addressed through a small service contract and some Mill Creek inmate projects.

## Site Preparation

The purpose of site preparation is to prepare areas for replanting after harvest operations or rehabilitation activities by removing or controlling the vegetative or slash cover. This allows seedlings to become established by reducing the competition with other vegetation for moisture, sunlight, and nutrients. Both chemical and mechanical (slash piling and burning) site preparation may be used on the same acreage. During this operations plan period, one or more site preparation activity will be conducted on approximately 480 acres, with approximately \$72,000 in supplies and labor anticipated to be allocated for these activities. This work includes mechanical brush and slash piling, pile burning, and chemical site preparation. Contractors, inmate crews and district personnel will all conduct portions of this work.

## Seedlings/Nurseries/Orchards

The district has ordered 197,000 seedlings to be planted during this fiscal year. Seedlings are primarily barefoot, with a few container grown (plug) trees too. Seedlings will come from PRT, WDNR, IFA and Lewis River nurseries. Another approximate 325,000 seedlings will be sown or transplanted during this fiscal year to be outplanted in FY 2021 and 2022.

All district Douglas-fir seedlings are grown from improved seed (medium to very high gain) which comes from the Burnt Woods (BW) Orchard at Schroeder Seed Orchard. The BW Orchard is a member of the Northwest Tree Improvement Cooperative. Every two years, the BW Orchard members conduct Controlled Mass Pollination (CMP) in order to collect small batches of very high gain seed. In order to obtain this seed, the district must conduct some of the pollination work themselves. At this time, it is uncertain if the district will have the manpower to accomplish this work (about 8 days/year). Western hemlock seedlings are grown from mid to high gain improved seed that is collected from the Hemlock Orchard at Schroeder Seed Orchard. The Hemlock Orchard is a 1.5 generation orchard. Western red cedar is also collected from the Schroeder Seed Orchard, from seed trees that were natural selections from the mid to north Oregon coast trees exhibiting high terpene levels. Seedlings grown from this seed should be less palatable to deer and elk, so will not be as likely to be browsed. This will hopefully lead to the ability to forgo tubing of most/all of the planted western red cedar in the near future. The district will conduct seedling trials to test this before forgoing all tubing. The district works with the ODF Geneticist to procure seed for growing Sitka spruce and grand fir, however only a small amount of grand fir will be planted in FY 2020. The current spruce seedlot comes from spruce tip weevil resistant seed grown in Canada. The grand fir is from woods run collections.

## 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. Some planting (under planting) is intended to create an additional tree layer in a partial cut stand for increased structure and diversity. Planting will also ensure future opportunities and options for the

management of stands to produce desired structures across the landscape. The IP indicates that annual reforestation acreage will be between 200 and 400 acres. About 400 acres are scheduled to be initial planted, with another 20 acres predicted for interplanting during FY 2020 at a total estimated cost of about \$125,000. Contract crews will conduct the work.

### **Initial Planting:**

This type of planting is conducted after a timber harvest reduces the stocking level to a degree that more trees are required on the site. There are eleven harvest units that are planned for initial planting which add up to 400 acres. Seedlings will be planted at a rate of 400 trees per acre (TPA). Seedling mixes will consist of Douglas-fir, western hemlock and western red cedar, with grand fir added into the mix in the units on the east side of the coast range.

### **Underplanting:**

This type of planting is conducted after thinning in order to introduce both species diversity and an additional future layer of structure into a stand. No underplanting will occur during FY 2020.

### **Interplanting:**

This type of planting will occur on areas that were initially planted one to three years previous, but for various reasons (animal damage, disease, seedling/planting quality, etc.) seedlings did not survive in sufficient numbers. It is estimated that approximately 20 acres may need interplant. A variety of tree species will be planted, depending on the site conditions and availability of stock.

## **Vegetation Management**

Release operations are conducted in established plantations to control undesirable vegetation that competes for moisture, sunlight, and nutrients. The objective is to retain preferred trees in the stand and maintain acceptable growth rates of the established stands. Vegetation management operations are also used to eradicate noxious weeds which may not actually threaten seedlings but which have the potential to spread and displace desirable vegetation. Vegetation management methods are either manual or chemical.

### **Manual Release:**

Areas of manual release are typically small areas in young plantations that are either too close to streams or private property to treat with chemicals or where target vegetation is too large to be effectively treated with chemicals. This type of release will keep preferred trees from being overtopped by competing vegetation. About 100 acres of manual release is forecast to be accomplished. This work will be done by the Mill Creek inmate crew and will be limited by the amount of acres that they can accomplish.

## **Chemical Release:**

These operations vary from aerial applications targeting multiple weed species growing over entire young plantations to ground based backpack applications targeting individual undesirable plants. Approximately 500 acres of ground-based vegetation management is forecast for this period with an estimated cost of approximately \$63,000.

## **Noxious Weeds**

Sites will be evaluated for treatment as they are identified. Roughly 20 acres of chemical and manual vegetation treatment targeting noxious weeds is forecast for FY 2020. This acreage does not include roadside management. These operations are typically on small acreage and will target such noxious weeds as Scotch broom, false brome, and spotted knapweed. The treatment areas will be scattered through most all of our management basins. The work will be conducted by district personnel.

## **Tree Protection**

Tree protection operations are conducted to reduce, control, or mitigate animal damage on desired trees in the stands. These operations are intended to maintain stocking and growth rates at acceptable levels. The District uses three methods to provide protection to trees: installing tubes over seedlings, applying a big game repellent to the seedling, or trapping animals (mountain beaver).

## **Tubing:**

On this District, tubing has proven effective in most cases in keeping deer and elk browse on cedar to an acceptable level. Tubes will be installed on most of the approximately 11,000 western red cedar (WRC) planted during this period with an expenditure of about \$7,000. The work will be done by the Mill Creek inmate crew. WRC will be planted on portions of all of the areas designated for initial planting during this period. The district may leave some WRC untubed in trial areas to see if the new WRC seed (high-terpene) is resistant to browse.

## **Big Game Repellent (BGR):**

BGR (Plantskydd) has been applied from time to time on WRC in the past and more recently to western hemlock and Douglas-fir on a trial basis. It appears to have helped prevent near total removal of western hemlock by big game species in problem areas. Plantskydd will be considered during FY 2020 if the need is there.

## **Direct Control:**

Very few Mountain beaver have been found in the last three to four years in district plantations. Assessments will be made after the units are harvested as to the need for

control work. Plantations planted in FY 2019 will also be assessed for maintenance trapping needs. The assessments/walk-throughs will be done by district personnel. Any large-scale trapping that is needed during FY 2020, will be done by the Mill Creek inmate crew.

## **Pre-commercial Thinning**

Pre-commercial thinning (PCT) operations are conducted on stands that are above a desired stocking level. The operations generally have several objectives including the following: 1) reduce stocking to levels which will maintain diameter growth, and to a lesser extent height growth; 2) provide an opportunity for selecting residual trees based on initial growth, form, and defect, and 3) favor particular species that are needed to improve stand composition and diversity. The IP states that annual PCT acreage will be between 200 and 800 acres. Approximately 100 acres of plantations or patchcuts are in need of PCT during the FY 2020 AOP period. In order for these stands to become financially viable commercial thinning within 10-15 years, they will need to be thinned.

The plantations needing PCT, range from 13 to 14 years old and are stocked with an average of 400 TPA of Douglas-fir and other conifer. PCT will increase the health and vigor of the stands by removing an average of 150 TPA of the smallest and/or most defective Douglas-fir trees. Most conifers other than Douglas-fir and most hardwoods will be reserved from cutting, thus maintaining the present diversity. Due to a fairly light work load, PCT conducted during this period will be done by the Mill Creek inmate crew.

## **Pruning**

The purpose of pruning is to remove limbs in order to create future high quality clear wood, or to reduce the potential for disease. The IP states that annual pruning acreage may vary between 0 and 50 acres. No pruning is planned for FY 2020.

### **Pruning for White Pine Blister Rust:**

No pruning is planned for FY 2020.

## **Stocking Surveys**

Walk through evaluations of one year old plantations and stocking surveys of two, six, and thirteen-fifteen year old plantations will continue. Approximately 500 acres are planned for surveying by district personnel.

## Recreation Management

Current recreational activities on the District consist mostly of dispersed camping, sightseeing, hiking, hunting, and fishing. However, there are four sites that do receive some level of consistent visitor use during certain periods of the year. They are:



1. Big Elk Creek. This area has two primitive campsites along Big Elk Creek that have all weather access. These campsites are consistently used during summer weekends and through much of the hunting seasons.
2. Baber Meadows. The Mt. Baber ATV Club uses Baber Meadows as an ATV staging/riding area. This staging area provides access to a 32.6 mile trail loop on ODF and private land. The club schedules some organized riding events but riders use the trail system at other times of the year, as well. The other staging area at Salmon Creek provides closer access to the Mt. Baber trail system for those riders coming from the Willamette Valley.
3. Black Rock. A mountain bike club, the Black Rock Mountain Bike Association (BRMBA), has created and maintains about 9.5 miles of trails in the eastern portion of ODF ownership at Black Rock. The club schedules some organized riding events but riders use the trail system at all times of the year, as well.
4. Yaquina Falls. This area was the focus of a commercial special use permit in the recent past. There are currently no activities on-going here.

Recreation planning and management are covered in the 2012 IP in detail. Current economic and funding constraints do not allow for development of additional recreation infrastructure. However, long term vision and goals (given improved economic conditions) are outlined in the IP.

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

The facilities at Baber Meadows include a restroom, an informational kiosk, an adjacent kid's ATV track, all weather access roads to camping and staging areas, nine surfaced trailer sites with picnic tables and fire rings, and two primitive camp sites. There is also an overflow parking area to the west of the meadows. The district pays for the pumping of the pit toilet. The facilities at the Salmon Creek Staging Area consist of a surfaced parking lot and an informational kiosk.

Facilities at Black Rock include a small parking area, a stunt area/gathering area and an informational kiosk.

Table 6. Developed Facility and Dispersed Campsite Projects

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Work Resources</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Baber Meadows	None		
Black Rock	None		
Yaquina Falls	None		
Dispersed Camping on Big Elk Creek	None		

## Trails

The 32.6 mile ATV trail loop on ODF and private forest land will be maintained throughout the year by the Mt. Baber ATV club members. About 4.2 miles of the trail system is on State land.

Table 7. Motorized Trail Projects

Project Name	Project Type	Work Resources	Project Description
None			

The 9.5 mile mountain bike trail system in the Black Rock area will be maintained throughout the year by the Black Rock Mountain Bike Association.

Table 8. Non-Motorized Trail Projects

Project Name	Project Type	Work Resources	Project Description
None			

## Volunteer Program

All volunteer activities are focused on the Mt. Baber ATV Club and Black Rock Mountain Biking use areas and are organized and managed by the two organizations.

## Event Management Activities

The Mt. Baber ATV club generally holds a number of organized riding events during the fiscal year. Riders use the staging areas and trails throughout the year unless restrictions are in place that would temporarily curtail activities (i.e. fire season restrictions, active timber sales, etc.).

The Black Rock Mountain Bike Association (BRMBA) may have some organized riding events along with scheduled “work party” events. The trail system is used continuously throughout the year. BRMBA has been exploring options to find better access to the mountain bike trail system that would alleviate the need to travel through Camp Tapawingo, a private church camp, where the current access is. The District may provide some administrative support to help in this endeavor of new access to State Forest ownership in conjunction with BRMBA. Additionally, the District is exploring a Strategic Investment that could help this cause.

## Other Integrated Forest Management Operations

## **Aquatic and Riparian Resources**

Stream restoration is a Forest Management Plan aquatic and riparian strategy for maintaining and improving aquatic functions. Within the West Oregon District Implementation plan, in the Aquatic Resources section, it is stated as a goal that the district will implement restoration projects to improve aquatic habitat, riparian function, and water quality where appropriate and feasible. Another goal in the IP is to implement 0-2 opportunistic projects per year if resources and partners are available.

The District will consider a stream restoration project associated with the Wolf Junction timber sale which is adjacent to Wolf Creek, a Coho stream. ODF has participated with ODF&W on two other projects on this stream in the past. However, the west fork of this stream has not had any large wood inputs and may be a good candidate for this type of activity. Both ODF&W and ODF's staff Riparian and Aquatic Specialist have expressed interest and the district will confer with them to see if this would be of value to fish habitat.

## **Land Exchange**

There are currently no land exchanges planned, however assessment and evaluation of other potential land exchanges will be on-going throughout the year. The district's "Land Acquisition and Exchange Plan" was updated in FY 2013.

## **Law Enforcement and Public Safety**

The District will continue to contribute \$5,000 total during FY 2020 to help fund one forest deputy in Lincoln County and one forest deputy in Benton County. Other agencies and private forest land owners also contribute to the funding of these law enforcement officers. In the past, the District has also helped to fund a forest deputy in Polk County. This program was terminated by the PCSO a few years ago. There has been some recent and on-going discussions of re-starting this program. The District would evaluate participation if an opportunity becomes available.

The forest deputies patrol forest lands in their respective counties to enforce laws relating to fire and recreation; prevent vandalism, theft of forest products and dumping of trash; and aid in search and rescue efforts. The forest deputies are essential to the success and overall management of the forest and their presence benefits all forest users.

## **District Firewood Cutting Program**

West Oregon District typically issues between 80 and 100 personal use firewood cutting permits each fiscal year, producing an estimated revenue through administrative fees of \$1,600 to \$2,000. In addition, the District issues between 5 to 10 commercial firewood permits with an estimated revenue of \$500 to \$1,000. This represents a significant workload,

in the fall through spring months, for the forester in charge of permits. No personal use firewood permits are issued during closed fire season.

Purpose:

The primary objective of the District Firewood Cutting Program is to provide a source of firewood from State Forests to the public for personal use and secondarily to reduce fuel hazards, improve visibility along roads, and provide a recreational opportunity. The District's Firewood Cutting Program is tied to the completion of timber sales. Timber sale contracts require any non-merchantable wood or cull material that has been yarded to the landing and is suitable for firewood to be placed in a pile.

State Forests are managed for multiple benefits, and snags, downed wood and stumps are important habitat components under our Forest Management Plan. Permittees should follow the permit instructions, review the permit and district maps, and consult with ODF personnel to ensure they remain on State Forests land. Property lines are frequently unmarked and ODF firewood permits are only valid on State Forests land. Harvesting firewood without the landowner's permission is trespass.

Firewood is a high-risk vector for wood-boring insects, such as emerald ash borer and Asian long horned beetle, two species responsible for widespread defoliation of forests in Midwest and Eastern states. The Oregon Invasive Weed Council and ODF encourage people to obtain their firewood in a place as close as possible to the place where it will be burned. Recreationists have a role in protecting the forests by not moving firewood great distances.

Permit Fee:

The permit fee is \$20 for two cords of firewood and is not transferrable to another party.

When:

By phoning the Philomath office, the public may have their names put on a permit list opened each year on October 1<sup>st</sup> and again on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Persons will be notified, in order, when permits become available. Occasionally, if there is no wood forecast to be available during one of these periods, the district may opt not to maintain a list until the next period. Permits will be issued for a 2 week period, during the months outside of fire season. Fire season is generally from July 1<sup>st</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>, but actual dates can vary dramatically from year to year..

Who:

A limited number of personal firewood cutting permits will be issued to the public, on a first on the permit list-first served basis, with a limit of 2 permits per individual or household within a 12 month period. The permit cannot be used to sell firewood to another party. Firewood cutting permits will be sold and administered to public employees under the same processes used by the public. Oregon Department of Forestry does not guarantee the quality or availability of wood when issuing firewood cutting permits, as such, permit fees will not be refunded. Exceptions to the two cord limit may be made for non-profit organizations, with prior district authorization.

### Where:

Designated firewood cutting areas will be marked on the permit map, which excludes active and sold timber sales, recreation sites, and planned operations. There is no guarantee that units or travel routes will be posted in the field.

### How:

Collected permit fees will be used to help reimburse administration of the firewood cutting program. Enforcement of firewood cutting permits will be accomplished by contracted law enforcement officers. Additional firewood cutting permit requirements and guidelines are provided with the permit.

### Commercial Firewood Permits:

In areas behind locked gates or on unsurfaced road systems only open during dry weather, a limited number of commercial permits may be offered. The district maintains an on-going list of interested parties. Permits are sold for \$100 and the permittee is allowed up to 10 cords per permit. Permits are for a one-month time period. This wood may be sold by the permittee and therefore requires that the permittee fill out a Notification of Operations which is filed with the Oregon Department of Forestry and results in notification to the Department of Revenue. Permittee must fill out this notification regardless of whether they intend to sell the firewood or not.

## **Miscellaneous Forest Products**

The District typically issues between 30 and 50 miscellaneous forest product permits for salal, vinemapple, forest plants, chanterelle mushrooms and Oregon grape each fiscal year. Permits are sold for \$100 per permittee and may have more than one permittee per permit. Revenue from these permits ranges from \$7,000 to \$10,000 per fiscal year.

## Planning

### **Stand Level Inventory and Other Vegetation Inventories**

There are approximately 25 stands which are planned for Stand Level Inventory (SLI) in FY 2020. This inventory will be contracted through Salem staff. Currently, 41% of the district's 977 stands have inventory or about 51% of the district acreage. 33% of the districts stands that have been inventoried or about 38% of the district acreage are considered older inventory, much of it measured 2007 or earlier.

All timber sale pre-cruise plots and cruise plots will be measured by district personnel.

### **Fish and Wildlife Surveys**

Fish presence surveys are required on one primary sale on streams within or adjacent to the operation area. District personnel will conduct fish presence surveys for those streams currently classified as unknown associated with the harvest operations. District personnel

will work with ODF Riparian and Aquatic Specialist in utilizing the physical characteristic survey protocol to determine stream classification. There are four streams in this sale plan in need of surveys.

For the FY20 AOP, the District will continue its northern spotted owl survey program in order to effectively 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. Starting with the FY20 timber sale operations, the district is switching to Density Surveys.

In FY2020, the district will continue its marbled murrelet survey program in order to comply with Federal and State Endangered Species Acts and to contribute to Forest Management Plan goals. Survey requirements are determined in accordance with ODF policy, guidance, and survey protocols.

Contractors complete all surveys and develop final reports for ODF. For both marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls, end of year (survey season) reviews will be done to discuss survey results. This end of season meeting is an opportunity to meet with surveyors to discuss findings and determine future survey needs and/or needed modifications to proposed operations.

## **Research and Monitoring**

The following research and monitoring projects are on-going during this fiscal year, but with the exception of the first and last listed, it is not expected that any active measurements will be taken during the year. Most monitoring/measurement work will be done solely by the cooperators, except for the seedling trials.

1. *Early seral habitat longevity in actively managed forests: a retrospective study* (Betts & Harris/OSU)
2. Influence of Forest Management Activities/Intensity on Pollinators in the Oregon Coast Range (Galbraith/OSU)
3. Growing stock study of thinned stands at Black Rock (McGuire/OSU)
4. Effects of sulfur applications on Swiss needle cast infected Douglas-fir (Kanaskie/OSU)
5. Effects of thinning in Swiss needle cast infected Douglas-fir stands (Mainwaring/OSU)
6. Nursery Seedling Stock trials (District).

## **Other Planning Operations**

During FY 2020, the District will be involved in the following planning activities:

1. FY 2021 AOP - This plan will cover all management operations on State Forest lands on the District for FY 2021, which begins July 1, 2020 and ends June 30, 2021.
2. Collecting additional data to enhance road inventory information, as workload permits.
3. Updating rock stockpile GIS layer with updated rock inventories and addition of stockpile sites.

## Public Information and Education

### **Forestry Education**

The District maintains supporting information on the Implementation Plan, Forest Land Management Classification System, and Annual Operations Plans for public review. In addition, District personnel will attempt to participate in watershed council meetings, outdoor school presentations, OSU College of Forestry class presentations (the Capstone Class and the Reforestation class field trips to ODF nursery stock trials), high school career fairs, sponsorship of local high school senior internships, ATV club meetings, and other public events as the opportunity arises and time permits. The District will continue to meet with concerned citizens or groups when they have questions or as needed. Participation in all of these activities will be driven by staffing and workload limitations.

## Administration

### **District Organization**

The State Forests Program is in the process of restructuring our workforce. Post-restructure, the plan is for twelve positions on the West Oregon District that are fully or partially funded for the management of State Forest lands. The District Forester and the administrative support staff, are partially funded. These positions are divided into two functional groups: Administration and State Forests (See Figure 1).

Administration is composed of the District Forester, Office Manager and two Administrative Specialists. The District Forester provides the following functions for the management of State Forest lands on the District: policy direction; budgeting; coordination between units and programs; and oversight to the field unit. The Administrative Specialists provide support for the management of State Forest lands. They are responsible for initial public contact, distribution and filing of documents, and providing assistance at timber sale auctions. They are also responsible for assisting with permits for firewood cutting and special forest products harvesting.

The State Forests Unit consists of five permanent positions, one partially funded Stewardship Forester, and two seasonal positions. The unit is responsible for reforestation

and young stand management; timber sale preparation and administration; forest planning; geographic information systems coordination; and road maintenance.

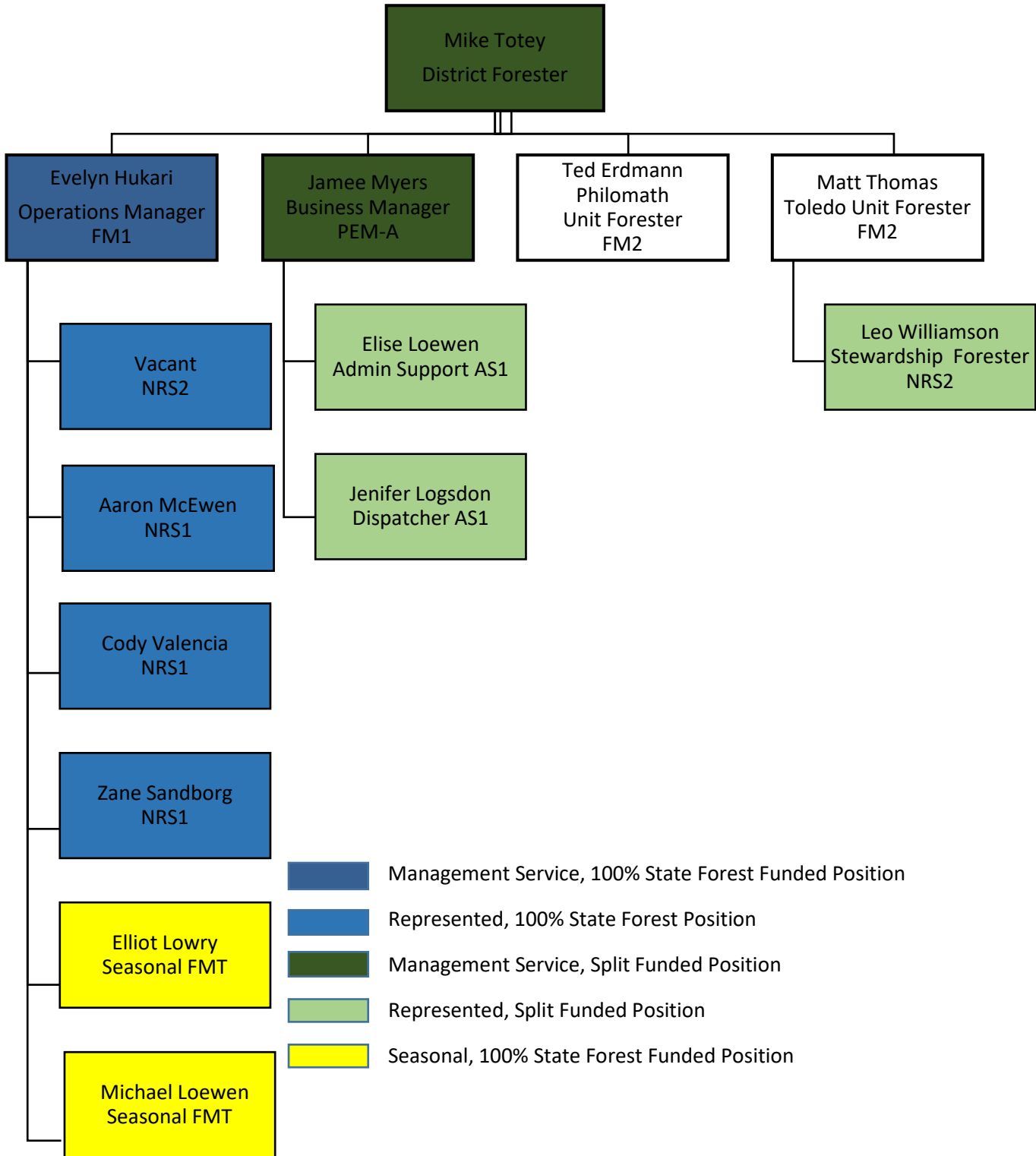
The State Forests Unit Supervisor coordinates all of the activities in the unit. The duties include employee supervision, reforestation and young stand management planning and oversight, timber sale contract review and approval, timber sale planning, and assuring that the property lines of all state forest land on the District are established and maintained. The Unit Supervisor prepares the annual operations plans for the District's state forest lands and is active in implementation of the District's IP and Northwest Oregon State FMP. The Unit Supervisor is also responsible for all recreation management on state forest lands.

Reforestation and young stand management is accomplished by a Timber Sale Prep / Reforestation Forester and two seasonal Forest Management Technicians. They are responsible for all activities conducted in forest plantations from the time harvesting is completed through reforestation and stand establishment. Their activities include site preparation, tree planting, vegetation management, pruning, tree improvement, and pre-commercial thinning. In addition, the NRS 1 position is responsible for invasive species surveying, monitoring and treatment; and will work this year towards obtaining a Public Pesticide Applicator license with a forestry endorsement.

The timber sale preparation and administration is accomplished with a staff of one Operations Forester and four Sale Preparation Foresters (one of which is the Reforestation Forester and one of which is the Stewardship Forester). Their responsibilities cover all aspects of timber harvesting; including unit layout, stream surveys, cruising, appraisal, contract preparation, and contract administration. They also ensure that current standards for retention of snags, green trees, and down wood are met and that riparian management strategies are correctly applied to the harvest units. They assist with the layout and design of new roads. The Operations Forester also takes on Road Specialist duties and is responsible for securing access to all state forest lands, managing service contracts for road repair and maintenance, and helping sale prep foresters in the layout and design of the more difficult roads. One Sale Preparation Forester is also responsible for managing the cutting of firewood and sale of miscellaneous forest products, such as salal and Oregon grape.



West Oregon District  
State Forest Management Organization  
**Figure 1**



# APPENDIXES

## A. Summary Tables

A-1 Timber Harvest Operations – Financial Summary

A-2 Timber Harvest Operations – Forest Resource Summary

A-3 Timber Harvest Operations – Forest Structure Summary

A-4 Forest Roads Summary

A-5 Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary

A-6 Recreation Management Summary

## B. Maps

Vicinity Map (showing all Commercial Operations) relative to the District ownership.

## C. Public and Other Agencies Involvement

This appendix summarizes the results of consultations with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other agencies as appropriate. This appendix contains any written comments received from state agencies.

## D. Public Involvement

This appendix describes the results of the public involvement process of this AOP and contains any written comments received during the public comment period.

## E. Pre-Operations Reports

Available from the district upon request.

## F. Landscape Design – Minor Modification

This appendix describes the proposed minor modification to the Landscape Design.

## Appendix A - Summary Tables

### TIMBER HARVEST OPERATIONS - FINANCIAL SUMMARY

District: West Oregon

Fiscal Year: 2020

Date: 06/18/2019

Primary Operation	Fund %		County	Sale Quarter	Net Acres		Volume (MMBF)			Value		
	BOF	CSL			Partial Cut	Clear-cut	Con-ifer	Hard-woods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net
SoHo	100%	0%	Benton	1	0	58	2.2	0.0	2.2	\$1,267,300	\$54,900	\$1,212,400
Bear Claw	100%	0%	Lincoln	2		45	1.0	0.2	1.2	\$630,000	\$22,800	\$607,200
Cline Miller Thin	96%	4%	Lincoln	3	169	0	1.1	0.2	1.3	\$290,250	\$44,200	\$246,050
Stone Age	100%	0%	Lincoln	3	0	90	1.6	0.7	2.3	\$1,170,000	\$54,000	\$1,116,000
Wolf Junction	82%	18%	Lincoln	3	0	78	3.5	0.2	3.7	\$2,107,950	\$88,039	\$2,019,911
Green Acres Thin	100%	0%	Benton/Linc.	4	161	0	1.4	0.1	1.5	\$339,750	\$36,000	\$303,750
Little Thin on the Prairie	0%	100%	Lincoln	4	129	0	1.2	0.0	1.2	\$260,550	\$40,000	\$220,550

<b>Total:</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>6,065,800</b>	<b>339,939</b>	<b>\$5,725,861</b>
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Harvest Objectives: 0-1200 ac 255-400 ac

12.0 MMBF

### Alternate Operations

Eastern Yaq Thin	100%	0%	Benton	Alt	185	0	1.1	0.0	1.1	\$251,100	\$51,507	\$199,593
Harlan Hangover	60%	40%	Lincoln	Alt	0	71	3.7	0.2	3.9	\$2,245,375	\$40,297	\$2,205,078
Just In Baber	75%	0%*	Lincoln	Alt	0	38	2.0	0.0	2.0	\$1,158,050	\$38,616	\$1,119,434
Just In Beaver	74%	26%	Polk	Alt	0	53	1.3	0.7	2.0	\$1,062,050	\$51,848	\$1,010,202

<b>Total:</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>4,716,575</b>	<b>182,268</b>	<b>\$4,534,307</b>
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\* 25% of the sale is in a District Administrative Site.

## Appendix A - Summary Tables

### PRIMARY HARVEST OPERATIONS - FOREST RESOURCE SUMMARY

**District:** West Oregon

**Fiscal Year:** 2020

**Date:** 06/18/2019

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

Primary Harvest Operations	Unit (Optional)	Forest Health Issues <sup>1</sup>	Invasive Species	LYR/OFS Structures <sup>2</sup>	Landcape Design LYR/OFS <sup>3</sup>	Install/Replace Culverts on Fish Bearing / Perennial Streams	Harvesting within 100' of Fish Bearing Stream	Domestic Water Source	Potential Stream Habitat Improvement <sup>4</sup>	Within Aquatic Anchor	Within Terrestrial Anchor	Operating within a NSO Provincial Circle	Within 1/4 mile of MMMA	T&E Fish Adjacent to Harvest Unit / Haul Route <sup>5</sup>	T&E Plants	Geotechnical Issues Needing Field Review	Recreation Sites	Cultural Resources	Scenic Resources	Other Resources or Issues	
SoHo		X	X			X		X					X	X							
Bear Claw													X	X			X				
Cline Miller Thin						X	X						X	X		X					Access Geo review
Stone Age									X	X			X	X		X					
Wolf Junction					X	X				X				X		X					Parent Trees
Green Acres Thin		X				X				X			X	X					X		
Little Thin on the Prairie		X				X							X	X		X					

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> The final decision on these projects will occur during sale preparation and inconsultation with ODFW.

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

## Appendix A - Summary Tables

### ALTERNATE HARVEST OPERATIONS - FOREST RESOURCE SUMMARY

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

Alternate Harvest Operations	Unit (Optional)	Forest Health Issues <sup>1</sup>	Invasive Species	LYR/OFS Structures <sup>2</sup>	Landcape Design LYR/OFS <sup>3</sup>	Install/Replace Culverts on Fish Bearing / Perennial Streams	Harvesting within 100' of Fish Bearing Stream	Domestic Water Source	Potential Stream Habitat Improvement <sup>4</sup>	Within Aquatic Anchor	Within Terrestrial Anchor	Operating within a NSO Provincial Circle	Within 1/4 mile of MMMA	T&E Fish Adjacent to Harvest Unit / Haul Route <sup>5</sup>	T&E Plants	Geotechnical Issues Needing Field Review	Recreation Sites	Cultural Resources	Scenic Resources	Other Resources or Issues	
Eastern Yaq Thin		X	X		X		X			X			X	X			X				
Harlan Hangover				X	X					X				X		X					
Just In Baber		X		X	X											X	X				
Just In Beaver		X			X					X			X	X							

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> The final decision on these projects will occur during sale preparation and inconsultation with ODFW.

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

## Appendix A - Summary Tables

### TIMBER HARVEST OPERATIONS - FOREST STRUCTURE SUMMARY Primary Operations

**District:** West Oregon

**Fiscal Year** 2020

**Date:** 02/04/2019

Current Structure		Post Harvest Structure <sup>1</sup>					Desired Future Condition <sup>2</sup>		
	Total	REG	CSC	UDS	LYR	OFS	GEN	LYR	OFS
REG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSC	0	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UDS	706	247	0	459	0	0	648	20	38
LYR	24	24	0	0	0	0	24	0	0
OFS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>38</b>

1. Expected structure 5 - 10 years after FY 2020 operations are completed.

2. This table reflects the landscape design after the modifications described in the Forest Management Operations section have been approved.



## Appendix A - Summary Tables

### REFORESTATION AND YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District: West Oregon

Fiscal Year: 2020

Date: 02/04/2019

ODF Funded Activities Management Activity	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District	
	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	BOF Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	CSL Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost
Initial Planting <sup>1,3</sup>	321	\$305.00	\$97,905.00	79	\$305.00	\$24,095.00	400	\$122,000.00
Interplanting <sup>1,6</sup>	16	\$150.00	\$2,400.00	4	\$150.00	\$600.00	20	\$3,000.00
Underplanting <sup>1</sup>	0	\$200.00	\$0.00	0	\$200.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection-Barriers <sup>2</sup>	23	\$252.00	\$5,796.00	5	\$252.00	\$1,260.00	28	\$7,056.00
Tree Protection-Direct Control <sup>2</sup>	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep-Chemical- Aerial <sup>3</sup>	0	\$70.00	\$0.00	0	\$70.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep-Chemical- Hand <sup>3</sup>	321	\$110.00	\$35,310.00	79	\$110.00	\$8,690.00	400	\$44,000.00
Site Prep -Slash Pile Burning <sup>2,4,6</sup>	133	\$15.00	\$1,995.00	9	\$15.00	\$135.00	142	\$2,130.00
Site Prep -Mechanical <sup>5</sup>	87	\$270.00	\$23,490.00	10	\$270.00	\$2,700.00	97	\$26,190.00
Fertilization	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Noxious weeds <sup>6</sup>	16	\$20.00	\$320.00	4	\$20.00	\$80.00	20	\$400.00
Release-Chemical- Aerial <sup>3</sup>	0	\$80.00	\$0.00	0	\$80.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release,-Chemical-Hand <sup>3</sup>	405	\$125.00	\$50,625.00	95	\$125.00	\$11,875.00	500	\$62,500.00
Release-Mechanical-Hand <sup>2</sup>	80	\$0.00	\$0.00	20	\$0.00	\$0.00	100	\$0.00
Precommercial Thinning <sup>2</sup>	90	\$0.00	\$0.00	10	\$0.00	\$10.00	100	\$10.00
Pruning (for disease control only) <sup>2</sup>	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Stocking Surveys <sup>6</sup>	400	\$0.00	\$0.00	100	\$0.00	\$0.00	500	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,892</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$217,841.00</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$49,445.00</b>	<b>2,307</b>	<b>\$267,286.00</b>

1 Planting costs include seed, seedlings, hauling, storage and contracted labor.

2 Work to be completed by Mill Creek Inmate Crew - no labor cost applied, only materials cost applied.

3 Contracted work.

4 Includes pile covering & materials

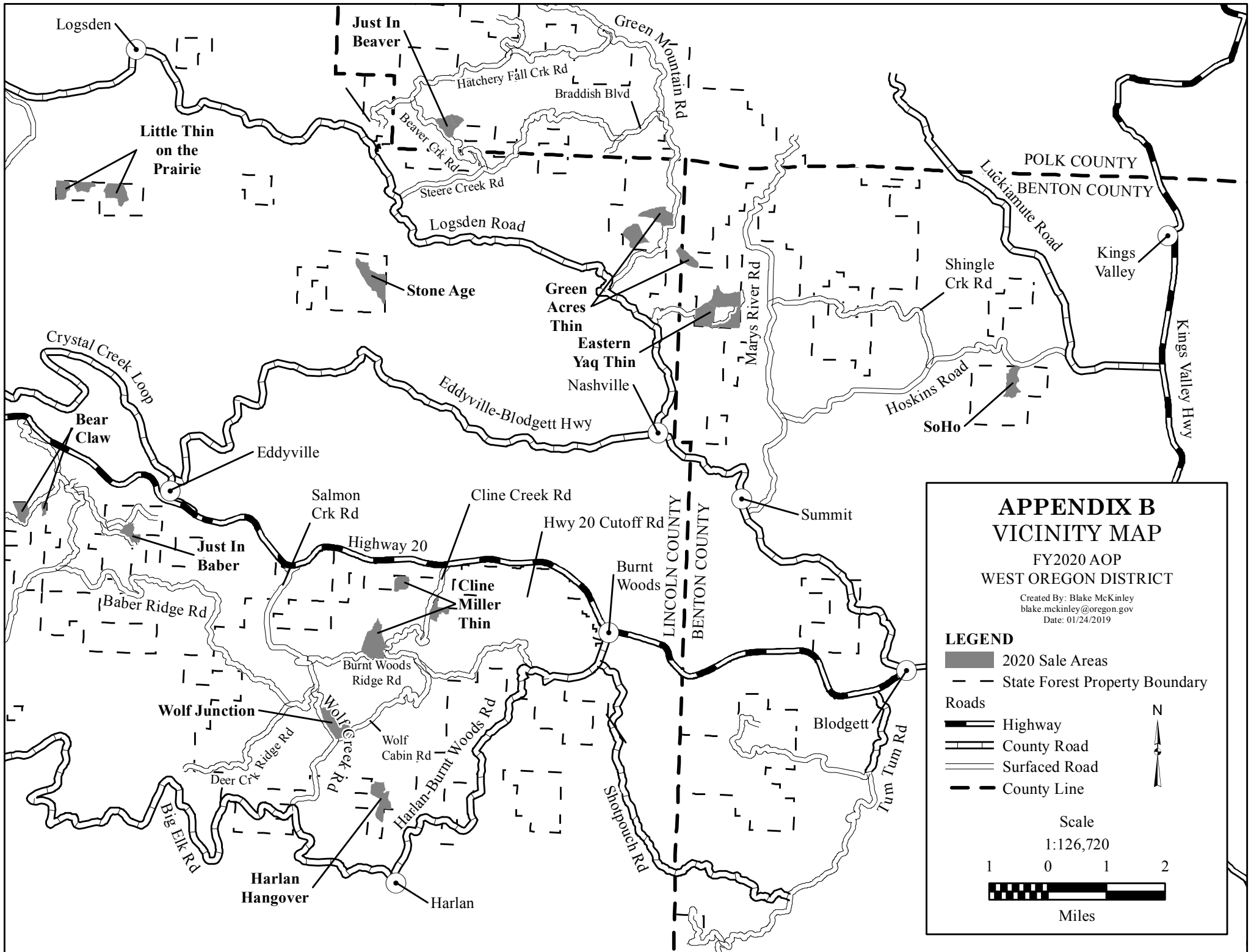
5 Conducted under timber sale contracts

6 District Labor

Grant Funded Activities Management Activity	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District		Funding
	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost	
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00	
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00	
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00	
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00	













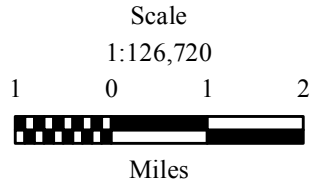
## APPENDIX B VICINITY MAP

FY2020 AOP  
WEST OREGON DISTRICT

Created By: Blake McKinley  
blake.mckinley@oregon.gov  
Date: 01/24/2019

### LEGEND

-  2020 Sale Areas
-  State Forest Property Boundary
- Roads**
-  Highway
-  County Road
-  Surfaced Road
-  County Line



## **APPENDIX C**

### **CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES FOR THE 2020 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN**

This appendix is used to report written comments received from other governmental agencies regarding the activities described in this draft plan and the district's response or resolution of those comments.

- One set of written comments from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W) – Mid Coast Wildlife Staff have been received. Verbal comments from additional ODF&W specialists was received during the district's annual AOP meeting. Comments reflected the desire of ODF&W for ODF to look for opportunities to place or drop Large Woody Debris into sale associated Type F streams. Other comments requested that ODF block and forage-seed unsurfaced spurs, consider the use of burning more units in lieu of herbicide treatment. All comments were considered while preparing this AOP.
- Archaeologists from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) have reviewed the proposed timber harvests and road construction projects to review potential impacts to cultural resources. All information is based on historic mapping and has not been field verified. One archaeological resource was identified during this review as a potential cultural resource site:
  - Green Acres Thin - review of SHPO information reports that a Native American trail may extend through a portion of Area 3. The ODOT review also indicates that the "Siletz Trail" may extend through both Areas 1 and 2.  
  
Foresters will begin sale preparation by looking for signs of the above resource.
- Biological Assessments for two primary operations (Cline Miller Thin and Green Acres Thin) and one alternate operation (Eastern Yaq Thin) were sent to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for review. The District received a response from USFWS stating that they believe that the sales as planned will have a low risk of incidental take for marbled murrelets. The Little Thin on the Prairie sale was reviewed by USFWS four years ago and was also deemed low risk for incidental take.

Note: A complete list of all comments and the responses for other districts related to the FY20 AOP can be found on our web site:

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



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office  
2600 SE 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
Portland, Oregon 97266  
Phone: (503) 231-6179 FAX: (503) 231-6195

Reply To: 8503.2002(19)  
TS Number: 19-376

Brian Pew  
Deputy Chief, State Forests Division  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
State Forester's Office  
2600 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310-1336

JUN 06 2019

Dear Mr. Pew:

This responds to your April 8, 2019, letter requesting review of five planned timber sales proposed to be conducted in your 2020 Fiscal Year which runs from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The Three Creeks Final proposed timber sales have been identified as having potential impacts to the federally-listed northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)(spotted owl): The Cline Miller Thin, Eastern Yak Thin, and Green Acres Thin have been identified as having potential impacts the federally-listed marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). Attached with your letter were the pre-operations reports and preliminary biological assessments for the proposed timber sales, portions of which are briefly summarized below. Our comments are based upon the information provided in your letter and its attachments.

The West 11 timber sale in the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Coos District is located within 1.5 miles of the Lockhart Road spotted owl activity center. The sale is a proposed modified clearcut of a 52 year-old mixed stand of Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and red alder, totaling 35 net acres, located about 1.3 miles from the activity center. The sale will retain approximately 2-4 Douglas-fir and/or western hemlock greater than 16 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) primarily in the riparian area. Existing snags will be retained where feasible. Approximately 60-120 ft<sup>3</sup>/acre of down wood will likely be added as a result of harvest operations. All of the acres to be harvested are considered by ODF to be spotted owl habitat. There are approximately 1,845 acres of state and private land in suitable spotted owl habitat currently within 1.5 miles of the activity center. With the 35 acres harvested, there will be 1,810 acres or 40 percent of the area within the 1.5 miles of the activity center still in suitable habitat. Forty percent suitable habitat within a home range radius of spotted owls is considered to be an average minimum to adequately support spotted owls. Due to the distance from the activity center, the relatively small amount and relatively young age of habitat removal, and the remaining available habitat within 1.5 miles of the activity center, we consider this timber sale to have a low risk of incidental take of spotted owls.

The Three Creeks timber sale in ODF's Southwest District is located within the 1.3 mile average home radius of three spotted owl activity centers: Smoky Mountain, Woods Creek South, and Fir Point. All of the sale area is considered to be suitable spotted owl habitat. The sale is a proposed modified clearcut of 89 net acres comprised of 83-89 year-old Douglas-fir and scattered incense cedar, ponderosa and sugar pine, and madrone. The average dbh is 12-16 inches. Some of the largest conifer and hardwoods will be retained, averaging five trees per acre scattered throughout the unit.

The Smoky Mountain spotted owl site is 0.50 miles from the proposed timber sale. Approximately 34 of the sale acres are within 0.7 miles of the site center, and all 89 acres are within 1.3 miles. If the 34 acres are removed, there would remain 527 acres or 57 percent of suitable habitat within 0.7 miles of the activity center. Generally, we believe that a minimum of 500 acres within the 0.7 miles is necessary to support spotted owl nesting, feeding, and sheltering. If the 89 sale acres are removed, there would remain approximately 1,616 acres of suitable habitat or 48 percent of the area within 1.3 miles of the activity center. Based on the having greater than 500 acres of suitable habitat remaining within 0.7 miles, and having 48 percent of area within 1.3 miles of the activity center remaining in suitable habitat after the proposed 89-acre harvest, we believe there is a low risk of incidental take of spotted owls.

The Woods Creek South spotted owl site is 1.3 miles from the proposed timber sale, but only one acre falls within that radius. If the one acre is removed there would remain 1,862 of suitable habitat, or 55 percent of the area within the 1.3 mile radius. Based on the distance from the activity center and the amount of habitat being removed as well as the amount of habitat remaining within 1.3 miles of the activity center, we believe the Three Creeks timber sale will have a very low risk of incidental take of the Woods Creek South spotted owls.

The Fir Point spotted owl site is 1.0 miles from the proposed timber sale. Approximately 48 of the 89 sale acres are within the 1.3 mile radius. There are approximately 1,690 acres of suitable habitat within 1.3 miles of the activity center. If the 48 sale acres are removed, there would be 1,642 or 48 percent of the habitat acres remaining within the 1.3 mile radius. Based upon the amount of remaining suitable spotted habitat after the 48 acres are removed, we believe that there is a low risk of incidental take of the Fir Point spotted owls.

The Cline Miller, Eastern Yak, and Green Acres thin timber sales are located in ODF's West Oregon District. The Clime Miller thin includes a thinning in Area 3 that is partially within the Wolf Creek Marbled Murrelet Management Area (MMMA) buffer (11.9 of 115 gross sale acres). Other proposed harvest-related activities in the MMMA include road improvement, tailhold, and guyline anchors. Area 3 is composed of 34 year-old trees with an approximate diameter of 12 inches dbh and a density of 267 trees per acre. None of these trees have developed platform structures suitable for marbled murrelet nesting. Thinning in the buffer would not remove adjacent trees to the designated occupied area that provide cover to potential nest trees. The current canopy cover is estimated at greater than 90 percent. After the thin, there would be approximately 124 trees per acre and at least 60 percent canopy cover. Protection and avoidance measures, including seasonal timing restriction, tailhold and guyline restrictions, trash removal, and landing selections, will be in place. Based upon the protection and avoidance measures maintaining a canopy of at least 60 percent which will reduce the likelihood of a flush of berry producing plants that may attract avian predators, and not removing trees with suitable nest platforms or adjacent trees providing cover to potential nest trees, we believe the Cline Miller thin timber sale has a low likelihood of incidental take of marbled murrelets.


The Eastern Yak thin timber sale includes three sale areas that are all partially within the buffer of the Lower Yaquina MMMA which they entirely surround. The timber sale is a net 185-acre first-entry

commercial thin in three adjacent Douglas-fir plantations that are 30-34 years old, stocked at 197-313 trees per acre, and having an approximate average diameter of 11-13 inches. Approximately 79.9 acres of buffer will be thinned by cable yarding. There is a high likelihood of tailholds and guyline anchors within the buffer and the designated occupied area. The prescription would result in a density of 106-129 trees per acre and maintain at least a 40 percent canopy cover. Road and landing improvement will occur within the MMMA buffer. Protection and avoidance measures, including identifying suitable nest trees and their associated cover trees, seasonal timing restriction, tailhold and guyline restrictions, trash removal, and landing selections, will be in place. Based upon the protection and avoidance measures, maintaining a canopy of at least 40 percent which will reduce the likelihood of a flush of berry producing plants that may attract avian predators, and not removing trees with suitable nest platforms or adjacent trees providing cover to potential nest trees, we believe the Eastern Yak thin timber sale has a low likelihood of incidental take of marbled murrelets. While we assume future timber harvests of these stands are likely many years away, we recommend that they not be planned so as to result in simultaneous clearcut harvest totally surrounding this MMMA, or any other MMMA. This could be accomplished by staggering the harvest dates, with at least one of the area's stands delayed by about 30 years, or being partially thinned instead of clearcut.

The Green Acres thin timber sale is composed of three sale areas in which first-entry, commercial thinning is proposed. Other proposed harvest related activities that will occur in the buffers include road construction, road and landing improvement, and tailhold and guyline anchors. Area 1 is partially within the South Fork Rock Creek MMMA buffer (6.2 of 4.1 gross sale acres) and includes 31 year-old Douglas-fir trees, stocked at 272 trees per acre, with an approximate 80 percent canopy cover and average diameter of 13 inches. The proposed treatment would lower the tree density to 116-118 trees per acre and maintain at least a 40 percent canopy cover. Area 2 is also partially located in the South Fork Rock Creek MMMA buffer (35.9 of 66.6 gross acres) and includes 33 year-old Douglas-fir trees and a small red alder component. Current stand characteristics include 256 trees per acre with an approximate average canopy cover of greater than 90 percent, and a diameter of 13 inches. The proposed treatment would result in a tree density of 116-118 trees per acre and maintain at least 40 percent canopy cover. Area 3 is partially located with the Lower Yaquina MMMA (23.5 of 41.1 gross acres) and includes 34 year-old Douglas-fir trees, stocked at 253 trees per acre, with an estimated canopy cover greater than 90 percent. The proposed treatment would result in a tree density of 107 trees per acre and maintain at least a 40 percent canopy cover. Protection and avoidance measures, including identifying suitable nest trees and their associated cover trees, seasonal timing restriction, tailhold and guyline restrictions, trash removal, and landing selections, will be in place. Based upon the protection and avoidance measures, maintaining a canopy of at least 40 percent which will reduce the likelihood of a flush of berry producing plants that may attract avian predators, and not removing trees with suitable nest platforms or adjacent trees providing cover to potential nest trees, we believe the Green Acres thin timber sale has a low likelihood of incidental take of marbled murrelets.

We appreciate your efforts to avoid negative impacts to federally-listed species such as the spotted owl, and marbled murrelet, and look forward to continued coordination in this regard. If you have any questions about this response, please contact Richard Szlemp at 503-231-6179.

Sincerely,

  
for Paul Henson, Ph.D.  
State Supervisor

**APPENDIX D**  
**PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS**  
**FOR THE 2020 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN**

The Oregon Department of Forestry completed a formal 45 day public comment period for the 2020 Annual Operations Plans from March 18 to May 2, 2019.

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

Past experience has shown that public comments have the potential to improve plans, so the objective was not only to inform the public, but to receive feedback that would help to clarify the AOP's, improve their consistency with the long range FMPs and IPs, and to become aware of any new information that could affect a planned operation or improve its efficiency or effectiveness.

The West Oregon District received three public comments: two general comments submitted through Survey Monkey and one received from Hampton Tree Farms, see following pages. The district continually evaluates logging and road construction costs and has recently increased our rates to what we feel is a market standard. The district has searched for a good rock source on our state lands for many years, but has been unsuccessful. The nearest state source would be in the North Cascade District which likely would prove to be too far of a haul distance.

The State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC) also reviewed the West Oregon District FY 20 AOP.

## #3

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, March 18, 2019 8:32:15 AM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, March 18, 2019 8:48:17 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:16:01  
**IP Address:** 63.155.134.44

Page 1: Public comment opportunity

**Q1** My comments pertain to the following Annual Operations Plan:

**West Oregon District**

**Q2** Are you familiar with the state's mandate to manage Board of Forestry lands for economic, environmental and social values?

**Yes**

**Q3** Is this AOP consistent with the desired future forest condition as described in the district's Implementation Plan?

**No,**  
If no, please explain.:  
less and less harvesting which is not keeping up with annual growth. This will lead to growth reduction and increased fire intensity.

**Q4** Are harvest ranges for partial cutting or modified clearcutting consistent with the goals in the district's Implementation Plan?

**No,**  
If no, please explain.:  
Partial cutting has minimal application in coastal climate. Partial cutting will result in tremendous increase in hardwoods and brush which will necessitate increased use of herbicides at a big cost.

**Q5** Is the stated objective for each sale in the Annual Operation Plan(s) clear?

**Yes**

**Q6** Are activities in the Annual Operation Plan(s) described clearly?

**Yes**

**Q7** Does the Annual Operations Plan(s) represents the most efficient and cost-effective methods to achieve the objectives?

**No,**  
If no, please explain.:  
Look at private forest harvest and reforestation for the most efficient methods.



**Q8** I can provide additional information specific to a planned operation or forest project not included in the Annual Operation Plan(s). **No**

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**Q9** Name and preferred reply email address:

bruno.meyer@msn.com

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**Q10** Would you like the department to respond to your comments? **No**

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## #83

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Saturday, April 20, 2019 10:42:44 PM  
**Last Modified:** Saturday, April 20, 2019 10:44:27 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:42  
**IP Address:** 192.122.245.250

Page 1: Public comment opportunity

**Q1** My comments pertain to the following Annual Operations Plan: **West Oregon District**

**Q2** Are you familiar with the state's mandate to manage Board of Forestry lands for economic, environmental and social values? **No**

**Q3** Is this AOP consistent with the desired future forest condition as described in the district's Implementation Plan? **Yes**

**Q4** Are harvest ranges for partial cutting or modified clearcutting consistent with the goals in the district's Implementation Plan? **Yes**

**Q5** Is the stated objective for each sale in the Annual Operation Plan(s) clear? **Yes**

**Q6** Are activities in the Annual Operation Plan(s) described clearly? **Yes**

**Q7** Does the Annual Operations Plan(s) represents the most efficient and cost-effective methods to achieve the objectives? **Yes**

**Q8** I can provide additional information specific to a planned operation or forest project not included in the Annual Operation Plan(s). **No**

**Q9** Name and preferred reply email address:

Erik Carter erikcarter71@yahoo.com

**Q10** Would you like the department to respond to your comments? **No**

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# HAMPTON TREE FARMS, LLC

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www.HamptonAffiliates.com

April 25, 2019

Public Affairs Office  
State Forests Division  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
2600 State Street  
Salem, Oregon 97310

RE: 2020 Annual Operations Plans (AOP) for the Astoria, Forest Grove, Tillamook, North Cascade, and West Oregon Districts

(2020 AOP Harvest Levels / Net Revenue: Astoria – 73 MMBF / \$26.2 million, Forest Grove – 61 MMBF / \$29.5 million, Tillamook – 47 MMBF / \$14.4 million, North Cascade – 17 MMBF / \$8.9 million, West Oregon – 13 MMBF / \$5.7 million, Totals – 211 MMBF / \$84.7 million)

Dear Sir / Madam:

The following is an AOP review with comments, questions, and recommendations for each district listed above. Hampton Tree Farms, LLC (HTF) strongly encourages the Department of Forestry (DOF) to operate at the upper end of the Implementation Plan (IP) allowable harvest levels on all Districts. For each 1 million board feet of additional timber sold, the districts could respectively produce the following additional net revenue based on projected 2020 AOP calculations: Astoria - \$360,000.00, Forest Grove - \$487,000.00, Tillamook - \$312,000.00, North Cascade - \$518,000.00, West Oregon - \$427,000.00. If all the above districts produced 1 million board feet of additional timber in FY20 (2.3% increase), the DOF would increase revenue by \$2,104,000.00. This increase would improve county funding by \$1,341,000.00 (63.75% of increase) and support an additional \$763,000.00 (36.25% of increase) of DOF costs or projects.

HTF has reviewed the Astoria AOP and recognizes that the district has met their annual volume target the past three years. Has there been any economic analysis on the impact of several sales not receiving bids during historically elevated log markets and the costs associated with re-advertising? With over 1000 acres being targeted for commercial thinning, have there been any price thresholds set to prevent these projects from operating at a loss to the district? Taking into account previous bid results, the high cost per unit to commercially thin young stands, and appraisal rate discrepancies, HTF suggests adding modified clearcut acres to the Popeye unit planned for the Crawford Basin. Finally, to reduce district wide project work costs, HTF suggests reducing the amount of road processing required after rock haul.

Excluding FY16 and FY17, HTF recognizes and appreciates that over the past seven years the Forest Grove District has consistently sold more volume than their IP objective. With the planned installation of several gates to prevent target shooting, dumping, and long term campers, has there been any coordination with forest deputies on anticipated redistribution of these activities? With the decreasing pool of experienced labor for snag creation, HTF suggests replacing tree topping with base girdling. Lastly, to more accurately portray project costs, HTF recommends reviewing rocking costs associated with overburden removal, drilling, and blasting.

Five of the last ten years the Tillamook district has sold less volume than their concurrent AOP had planned. This decreased volume and revenue significantly impacts rural counties with struggling budgets

and threatens the operations of manufacturing facilities that depend on this volume and provide hundreds of family wage jobs. With the district investing in 12.9 miles of new roads is there funding available or a plan to reconstruct the Cook Creek Rd washout that accesses thousands of acres of merchantable timber? To provide more accurate stumpage feedback and additional sale flexibility HTF recommends offering two to three timber sales throughout the FY that are ready to harvest, have minimal seasonal restrictions, and contain no project work.

HTF has reviewed and recognizes that the North Cascade district has continually planned to sell slightly more volume than the IP objective, however it is unfortunate that three of the past six years the actual sold volume has been less than the planned level. HTF would like to commend the continued implementation of the stand level inventory program. This investment provides essential stand condition information for future harvest scheduling and design. We also appreciate the continual effort to winterize timber sales. HTF recommends offering one to two timber sales without project work, as well as re-implementing minor pre-commercial thinning as some of the other districts have found the necessary funding.

Four of the past six years the Western Oregon district has sold less volume than planned in the respective AOP. This is due to several factors, however one major cause would be several sales going no-bid at auction. HTF recommends that the district revisits logging and road construction appraisal rates, especially those associated with small log thinning sales. HTF would also like to push Western Oregon to work with the other districts to help find and develop their own rock sources as the long term economic benefit would increase revenue for the district and remove the reliance on expensive outside aggregate sourcing.

HTF has reviewed the business case analysis that ECONorthwest has compiled for the DOF on the implementation of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Although the analysis shows increased harvest volume with HCP implementation, HTF stands opposed to this position because of assumptions made in the report. The increase in volume is primarily driven from an overstated number of acres that are assumed to become available for harvest throughout the HCP duration. What evidence can be provided that will improve the ability of the DOF to harvest older age class forests in the future? How will an HCP provide predictable harvest volumes if available DOF acres are further impacted by the listing of unforeseen endangered species?

Abundant public timber is needed to preserve both manufacturing and contract logging infrastructure. If this infrastructure is not maintained, the value of public timber will diminish over time. The importance of this has been highlighted in recent years through Oregon mill closures and the enactment of projects that support the struggling industry contractor base, such as the "Planning the 2020 Workforce" operation being sponsored by Associated Oregon Loggers and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute. HTF strongly encourages the DOF to continue harvesting at the upper end of each IP which supports the financial success and stability of the department. While we understand current policies set by the Board of Forestry, we believe it is unconscionable for the DOF to operate at harvest levels that disregard the sustainable growth potential of department lands.

Sincerely,  
HAMPTON TREE FARMS, LLC



Tyler Robbins  
Forester

**APPENDIX E**  
**Pre-Operations Reports**  
**FOR THE 2020 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN**

Pre-Operations Reports are available upon request.

**APPENDIX F**  
**CHANGES TO LANDSCAPE DESIGN – MINOR MODIFICATION TO THE WEST OREGON DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The Landscape Design for the West Oregon District designates 31 percent of the land base which is designated to achieve a Desired Future Condition (DFC) of either Layered (LYR) or Older Forest Structure (OFS). The 31 percent landscape design was adopted in 2012 as part of the revised West Oregon District Implementation Plan (IP). The landscape design is a long term vision of the arrangement of stand structures to be developed across the district to achieve the landscape objectives set forth in the Northwest Forest Management Plan (FMP).

In order to adapt to new information such as: updated forest inventory, new threatened and endangered species sites, forest land management classification updates, landscape changes due to storm damage, insect and/or disease or other significant events; the landscape design was anticipated to change over time. In addition, various GIS layers including the DFC are always in need of aligning and fine tuning as part of the improvement and maintenance of the data. Changes of up to 240 acres annually are considered minor changes and can be approved by the District Forester concurrent with the Annual Operation Planning (AOP) process. Changes that are greater than 240 acres are considered major and require a public comment period and are approved by the State Forester.

The proposed changes are driven by new threatened and endangered species sites. A summary of the desired future condition of the proposed changes is shown in Table 1, and the summary of the current forest condition of the proposed changes is shown in Table 2.

Table 1. Minor changes to the Landscape Design, summary of DFC changes.

Operation/Unit	Modification	Acres Added to DFC Complex	Acres Removed from DFC Complex
Harlan Hangover	Remove DFC - OFS	0	23
Just In Baber	Remove DFC - OFS	0	16
Just In Beaver	Remove DFC - LYR	0	2
Just In Beaver	Remove DFC - OFS	0	10
Wolf Junction	Remove DFC - LYR	0	6
Lower Yaquina MMMA	Add DFC – LYR	8	0
Lower Yaquina MMMA	Add DFC – OFS	49	0
Total Change		57	57

Total current LYR acres after this modification are 2458 (7% of District Acres), and total current OFS acres are 1716 (5% of District Acres).

Table 2. Minor changes to the Landscape Design, summary of Current Condition changes.

Acres Removed		Acres Added	
Current Stand Condition	Acres	Current Stand Condition	Acres
NF	0	NF	0
REG	0	REG	0
CSC	0	CSC	0
UDS	19	UDS	19
LYR	0	LYR	0
OFS	38	OFS	38
Total Acres Removed	57	Total Acres Added	57