Roseburg District BLM Planning Update

Fall 2002

Dear Citizen:

The Planning Update is published to provide current information about specific projects and future events planned on the Roseburg District of the Bureau of Land Management. Please send written comments, including the specific project and field office name, to 777 N.W. Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg, Oregon 97470, during the public comment period. If you wish to save paper and postage, and you have access to the internet, you can find the Planning Update at www.blm.gov/roseburg.

Please remember to ask us to remove your name from our mailing list if you no longer wish to receive the Planning Update. For your convenience, you can also find a copy of the Planning Update at the Douglas County Library. Your comments and concerns are welcome and may influence the final decision on these projects.

Thank you for your continued interest.

Sincerely,

Cary A. Osterhaus
District Manager

USDI - Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg District Office
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Roseburg, Oregon 97470

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Key Contacts

For more information about projects in the field offices, contact the following environmental coordinators:

Jim Luse, Swiftwater Field Office, 464-3254
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Non-Discretionary Actions Under Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreements

There are 140 individual agreements and easements that were executed prior to implementation of the Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) (p. 71). These agreements are subject to regulations in effect at the time they were executed or assigned. Discretion on the part of the BLM to object to road construction is limited to one environmental reason - excessive erosion damage.

South River Field Office

- Roseburg Resources Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-851
  Permittee Road Construction in Section 33, T. 28 S., R. 8 W., W.M.
- Roseburg Resources Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-851
  Permittee Road Construction in Section 29, T. 31 S., R. 7 W., W.M.
- Roseburg Resources Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-851
  Permittee Road Renovation in Section 23, T. 29 S., R. 9 W., W.M.
- Roseburg Resources Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-851
  Permittee Road Renovation in Section 31, T. 28 S., R. 8 W., W.M.
- Seneca Jones Timber Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-656
  Permittee Road Construction in Section 23, T. 28 S., R. 4 W., W.M.
- Seneca Jones Timber Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-656
  Permittee Road Construction in Section 35, T. 28 S., R. 4 W., W.M.
- Lone Rock Timber Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-543
  Permittee Road Construction in Section 11, T. 29 S., R. 4 W., W.M.
- Lone Rock Timber Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-543
  Permittee Road Construction in Section 13, T. 29 S., R. 4 W., W.M.

Swiftwater Field Office

- Lone Rock Timber Co., Right-of-Way Agreement No. R-645P
  Permittee Road Construction in Sec. 19, T. 22 S., R.7 W., W.M.
- Superior Lumber Co., Right-of-Way Agreement No. M-1023
  Permittee Road Construction in Sec. 17, T. 25 S., R.4 W., W.M.
- Roseburg Resources Co., Right-of-Way Agreement No. R-735
  Permittee Road Construction in Sec. 35, T. 23 S., R.6 W., W.M.
- Roseburg Resources Co., Right-of-Way Agreement No. R-617
  Permittee Road Construction in Sec. 15, T. 25 S., R. 1 W., W.M.
- Seneca Jones Timber Co., Right-of-Way Agreement No. R-645
  Permittee Road Construction in Sec. 3, T. 22 S., R. 5 W., W.M.

Categorical Exclusions

This is a category of actions that federal agencies have determined not to significantly affect the human environment, individually or cumulatively. Neither an EA or EIS is required (40 CFR 1508.4).

South River Field Office

- **Timber Salvage -** Dickerson Salvage - Salvage of approximately 19 MBF of roadside blown down timber in Section 9, T. 29 S., R. 7 W. (OR-105-02-16).
- **Hauling Permit -** Issuance of a temporary hauling permit to Superior Lumber Company for use of BLM-administered roads in Sections 14, 15, 21, 22, 23 and 28, T. 28 S., R. 4 W. (OR-105-02-25).
- **Road Use -** Amendment to Right-of-Way and Road Use Agreement and O&C Logging Road Right-of-Way Permit R-1023 held by Swanson Group, Inc (formerly Superior Lumber Company) to add roads authorized for use under the above noted temporary haul permit (OR-105-01-07).
- **Hauling Permit -** Renewal of a temporary hauling permit to Walter B. Smith, authorizing the use of BLM-administered roads in Sections 8 and 9 of T. 28 S., R. 7 W. for the purpose of hauling timber harvested from privately owned lands within the same sections (OR-105-02-24).
- **Special Forest Products -** Harvest of yew bark for medicinal research and developmental purposes. Harvest authorized in Section 5, T. 30 S., R. 4 W. and Section 1, T. 30 S., R. 5 W. in the Packard Gulch drainage (OR-105-02-26).
- **Silvicultural Treatments -** Pre-commercial density management by girdling. The treatments will be applied to approximately 18 acres in the Matrix and 83 acres within Late-Successional Reserves (OR-105-02-22).
- **Special Forest Products -** Establishment of firewood cutting area for personal use firewood (OR-105-02-27).

Swiftwater Field Office

- **Roseburg Resources Road Repair -** Repair of existing permittee controlled road, blocked by slides. The slides and several BLM owned trees were removed to reopen the road. (OR-104-02-15).
- **Precommercial Thinning and Manual Release -** Precommercially thin ten to twenty year old stands to 14 x 14 or 12 x 12 foot prescribed spacing, favoring the largest, healthiest, well-formed conifer. (OR-104-02-18).
- **Fire Break Creation -** Creation of fire breaks (defensible space) along approximately 15 miles of road on BLM managed lands, within the Rural Fire District as part of the on-going Wildland Urban Interface. Drainage. (OR-104-02-19).
- **Replacement of Chain Link Fence -** Authorizes the replacement of approximately 124 feet of chain link fence for safety concerns. (OR-104-02-23).
- **Trail Repair Along Susan Creek Falls Trail -** Replacement of log or rock runners used along the trail to contain gravel upon the trail surface. (OR-104-02-29).
- **Installation of Bat Boxes under Bridges -** Installation of bat boxes, for roosting, beneath BLM cement flat -bottomed bridges. (OR-104-02-32).

Watershed Analysis Status

South River Field Office

Work on second iterations of watershed analysis for the Lower Cow Creek and Myrtle Creek watersheds is continuing. The Myrtle Creek watershed analysis includes the preparation of a water quality restoration plan. Completion dates are unknown at this time.

New Projects

District Wide Projects

Outplanting Site Project

Description: This project would thin approximately half of the surviving trees in each plantation (an average of 4800 trees were planted). Due to the nature of these plantations, every other tree would be cut, as well as any naturally seeded trees and brush.
Location: Roseburg District Outplanting Sites.
Issue Identification: September 2002.
Analysis: To be announced.
Public Review: To be announced.
Decision Dates: To be announced.

South River Field Office

Early Commercial Thinning

Description: An interdisciplinary review and environmental assessment was initiated for early commercial thinning within the Matrix. The programmatic analysis will consider the effects of thinning young managed stands that were not pre-commercially thinned, are now too large for such treatments, but are in need of reductions in stocking levels.
Location: Roseburg District
Issue Identification: September 2002.
Analysis: To be announced.
Public Review: To be announced.
Decision Dates: To be announced.

Swiftwater Field Office

Recreation Programmatic EA

Description: This EA analyzes a variety of repair, maintenance, upgrade, and minor improvement projects. To streamline the NEPA process this EA analyzes three project categories: 1) Repair/maintenance of damage caused by "Acts of God" (i.e. flood, wind, etc); 2) General maintenance and upgrade (e.g. pumphouses, pavilions, paving, etc.); and 3) Minor improvements (e.g. Eagle Scout projects, sprinkler systems, watchable wildlife sites, etc.)
Location: Swiftwater Resource Area Recreation Sites.
Issue Identification: August 2002.
Analysis: To be announced.
Public Review: To be announced.
Decision Dates: To be announced.

Tioga Segment Re-Construction EA

Description: This project would upgrade the remaining unimproved portion of the Tioga Segment of the North Umpqua Trail. The reconstruction would include approximately 2600 feet of the North Umpqua Trail (approximately 502 feet of the trail is on BLM lands and the remainder is on lands owned by Douglas County (DC)), widening the trail to 48 inches, cutting encroaching trees (<16 Inches dbh), removing all protruding rocks in the trail path, covering hundreds of roots with soil and then gravel, establishing brush clearing limits of 8' x 8' and improving the trail drainage. The trail reconstruction would begin at the Deadline Falls trail junction and continue to the trail junction leading to the Douglas County Park Swiftwater.

Location: Sections 1 & 12, T.26S., R.3W., W.M.

Issue Identification: May 28, 2002.

Analysis: Completed July 2, 2002.

Public Review: Completed August 1, 2002.

Decision Date: To be announced.

Status of Previous Planning Update Action Items

South River Field Office

Myrtle Creek Watershed Restoration

Description: An assessment of the environmental consequences of watershed restoration projects that would include the replacement of stream-crossing culverts that are at risk of failure and/or blocking passage to fish, road decommissioning, road upgrading, slide stabilization, and installation of in-stream structures to promote habitat complexity.

Location: Throughout the Myrtle Creek 5th Field Watershed.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

South River Commercial Thinning 2002

Description: Commercial thinning and density management of approximately 520 acres of managed second-growth stands in GFMA and Riparian Reserves. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Sections 27, 33 and 35, T. 29 S., R. 6 W.; Sections 3 and 9, T. 30 S., R. 6 W.; Sections 25 and 35, T. 29 S., R. 7 W.; Section 29 of T. 29 S., R. 8 W.; Section 13, T. 29 S., R. 9 W.; and Sections 13 and 23, T. 30 S., R. 9 W.

Location: Upper Middle Fork Coquille and Middle South Umpqua River/Rice Creek watershed analysis units.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

South River FY 2001 Regeneration Harvest Project Plan

Description: Regeneration harvest of approximately 640 acres allocated as GFMA and Connectivity/Diversity Blocks. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Secs. 33 and 35, T. 27 S., R. 4 W. ; Secs. 3, 5 and 10, T. 28 S., R. 4 W.; Sections 3 and 4, T. 30 S., R. 4 W.; Secs. 27 and 33, T. 31 S., R. 6 W.; and Sec. 3, T. 32 S., R. 6 W. The timber sales would be expected to yield approximately 26,900 CCF of timber.

Location: Lower South Umpqua River Watershed, South Umpqua River and Lower Cow Creek watersheds.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

Middle Fork Coquille Commercial Thinning 2001

Description: Commercial thinning and density management of approximately 1,000 acres of managed second-growth stands in GFMA, Connectivity/Diversity Block and Riparian Reserve land use allocations. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Sec. 29 and 31 of T. 28 S. R. 8 W.; Sec. 31, 32, and 33 of T. 29 S., R. 8 W.; Sec. 5 and 7 of T. 30 S., R. 8 W.; and Sec. 1, 2, and 3 of T. 30 S., R. 9 W. The action is expected to result in 5 timber sales yielding approximately 18,000 CCF of timber.

Location: Middle Fork Coquille River watershed.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

Beatty Creek/Island Creek Land Exchange

Description: The BLM would exchange parcels of timbered lands from the Public Domain for approximately 764 acres of Roseburg Resources Company lands in the Lower Cow Creek watershed. A majority of the lands acquired by the BLM would be added to the Beatty Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Area. Lands in the Island Creek area would be managed to provide additional recreational opportunities in association with the BLM's Island Creek Day Use Area.

Location: The lands that would be acquired by the BLM are located in Secs. 30 and 31, T. 30 S., R. 6 W. and Sec. 36, T. 30 S., R. 7 W. The BLM has identified 4 parcels of land in Sec. 4, T. 25 S., R. 3 W.; Sec. 20, T. 23 S., R. 4 W.; and Sec. 22, T. 24 S., R. 3 W. that are available and would be offered in exchange. Not all of the offered parcels are anticipated to be needed to complete the exchange.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.

Public Review: Complete.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

South River Commercial Thinning 2000

Description: Commercial thinning and density management of approximately 300 acres of managed second-growth stands in GFMA and Riparian Reserves. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Sec. 19, T. 28 S., R. 8 W.; Secs. 13 and 24, T. 29 S., R. 3 W.; Secs. 3 and 4. T. 30 S., R. 3 W.; Sec. 19. T. 29 S., R. 2 W.; and Sec. 9 , T. 30 S., R. 2 W. The timber sales would be expected to yield approximately 5,590 CCF of timber.

Location: East Fork and Middle Fork Coquille River, South Umpqua River, and Middle South Umpqua River/Dumont Creek watersheds.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Complete.

Public Review: Complete.

Decision Date: A 34-acre commercial thinning, Hurricane Ruby, was authorized on August 27, 2001. The commercial thinning was offered and sold on September 25, 2001. A second commercial thinning consisting of 136 acres, Weaver Road, was authorized on October 30, 2001, and sold at auction on November 27, 2001. A decision is expected in late August, authorizing the offering of the Bland Days Commercial Thinning Timber Sale. The sale will include Units L and M from this analysis, totaling 24 acres. These units will be combined with Unit A of the South Umpqua Connectivity Density Management analysis.

South Umpqua Connectivity Density Management

Description: Density management of approximately 140 acres allocated as Connectivity/Diversity Blocks and Riparian Reserves. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Sec. 17, T. 30 S., R. 2 W and Sec. 17, T. 30 S., R. 3 W. The timber sales would be designed to accelerate the development of old-growth habitat and yield an estimated 2,040 CCF of timber.

Location: Deadman/Dompier and South Umpqua River watersheds.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Complete.

Public Review: Complete.

Decision Date: A decision is expected in late August, authorizing the offering of the Bland Days Commercial Thinning Timber Sale. The sale will include Unit A from this analysis, totaling 56 acres. This unit will be combined with Units L and M Unit A of the South River Commercial Thinning 2000 analysis.

South River Watershed Restoration

Description: The EA analyzed an array of restoration projects to be implemented over a 5 year period. Projects include road renovation and decommissioning, culvert replacement, stream bank stabilization, tree-lining and placement of logs in stream for habitat structure.

Location: S. Umpqua River, Myrtle Creek, Lower Cow Creek, Olalla-Lookinglass and Middle Fork Coquille Watersheds.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Public Review: Complete.

Decision Date: Decisions have been issued for all of the projects analyzed in the EA, with the exception of partial renovation and partial decommissioning of BLM Road No. 29-4-23.1.

Ragu Timber Sale

Description: Regeneration harvest of approximately 150 acres allocated as GFMA. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Sec. 9, 21, 29, and 33, T. 29 S., R. 8 W.; and Sec. 5, T.30 S., R. 8 W. The timber sale would be expected to yield approximately 6,208 CCF of timber.
Location: Olalla Creek/Lookingglass Creek and Middle Fork Coquille River watersheds.
Issue Identification: Complete.
Analysis: Complete.
Public Review: Complete.
Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

Dickerson Heights Timber Sale

Description: Regeneration harvest of approximately 180 acres allocated as GFMA and Connectivity/Diversity Blocks. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Secs. 3, 11, 9, and 15, T. 29 S., R. 7 W. The timber sale would be expected to yield approximately 8,800 CCF of timber.
Location: Olalla Creek/Lookingglass Creek watershed.
Issue Identification: Complete.
Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.
Public Review: Unknown at this time.
Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

Loose Laces Timber Sale

Description: Regeneration harvest of approximately 200 acres allocated as GFMA and Connectivity/Diversity Blocks. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Secs. 1, 3, 13, and 15, T. 31 S., R. 6 W. The timber sale would be expected to yield approximately 7,300 CCF of timber.
Location: Lower Cow Creek watershed.
Issue Identification: EA OR105-98-04 and FONSI withdrawn and replaced by EA OR105-99-14. Issue identification completed.
Analysis: Environmental Assessment work in progress.
Public Review: Unknown at this time.
Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

Cow Catcher Timber Sale

Description: Regeneration harvest of approximately 190 acres of Matrix lands in Sec. 5, 7, 9, and 17, T. 31 S., R. 6 W. The timber sale would be expected to yield approximately 7,700 CCF of timber.
Location: Lower Cow Creek watershed.
Issue Identification: Complete.
Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.
Public Review: Unknown at this time.
Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

Swiftwater Field Office

FY 2003 Commercial Thinning Timber Sales

Description: Analyze and design two separate commercial thinnings. The two thinnings would be analyzed in separately, but have one environmental assessment (EA) document; Copeland Divide, (Commercial Thinning) Sec. 3, T. 22 S., R. 6 W., W.M.; Sec. 31, T. 21 S., R. 4 W. W.M.; Sec. 7, T. 22 S., R. 4 W. W.M.; and Boyd Howdy (Density Management/Commercial Thinning) Secs. 11, 13, 15, 21, 23, 25 & 27, T. 25 S., R. 2 W., W.M.; Secs. 29 & 30, T. 25 S., R.1W., W.M..
Location: Swiftwater Resource Area; GFMA, Connectivity, LSR, and Riparian Reserve.
Issue Identification: May/June 2002.
Analysis: Expected Jan. 2003.
Public Review: To be announced.
Decision Dates: To be announced.

Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan (Formerly known as "Tyee Restoration")

Description: This EA analyzes a variety of potential and continuing projects throughout the watershed. Treatment of forests for fish, wildlife and commercial objectives; treatment or decommissioning roads; and instream and aquatic enhancement area a few of the types of projects analyzed in this EA.
Location: Swiftwater Resource Area; GFMA, Connectivity, LSR, and Riparian Reserve.
Issue Identification: May 2002.
Analysis: Expected to begin Jan. 2003.
Public Review: To be announced.
Decision Dates: To be announced.

Rock Creek Access Road Realignment (Rock Creek Road Stabilization Project)

Description: Realignment of approximately one quarter mile of the 26-3-1.0 road (Northeast Fork) to repair potential failures.
Location: T.24S., R.2W., Section 25.
Issue Identification: Completed.
Analysis: Completed.
Public Review: Completed.
Decision: Completed.

FY 2002 Commercial Thinning Timber Sales

Description: Analyze and design four separate commercial thinnings. The four thinnings would be analyzed in two separate environmental assessment (EA) documents; West Side (Hayhurst and Cat Tracks), Sec. 3, T. 22 S., R. 6 W., W.M.; Sec. 31, T. 21 S., R. 4 W. W.M.; Sec. 7, T. 22 S., R. 4 W. W.M.; and East Side (Relativity and East Fork) Secs. 11, 13, 15, 21, 23, 25 & 27, T. 25 S., R. 2 W., W.M.; Secs. 29 & 30, T. 25 S., R.1W., W.M..
Location: Swiftwater Resource Area; GFMA, Connectivity, LSR, and Riparian Reserve.
Issue Identification: Completed.
Analysis: Westside EA completed July 9, 2002. East Side is Ongoing.
Public Review: Westside public review ends August 8, 2002.
Decision Dates: Expected by August 2002.

Umpqua Land Exchange Project (ULEP):

Description: The Foundation for Voluntary Land Exchanges (Foundation) is working in conjunction with the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the Umpqua Land Exchange Project. The Project will explore opportunities for voluntary changes in the checkerboard pattern of public and private ownerships in the Coast Range portion of the Umpqua Basin. The study area includes approximately 675,555 acres in the lower Umpqua River Basin, almost all of it in Douglas County. The Foundation is preparing an EIS to identify and analyze potential land exchange opportunities.

Location: Swiftwater Resource Area, Coast Range.

Scoping: Completed.

Draft EIS Due: Date changed to Feb. 2003.

Comment Period: 90 days (Feb. 2003).

The following projects are not presently considered action items. Further work on the environmental assessments has been deferred. At such time as analysis is resumed, it will be noted in the Planning Update.

South River Field Office

North Myrtle Timber Sales
Can-Can Watershed Level Project Plan
North Olalla-Lookingglass Watershed Level Plan
Middle South Umpqua /Olalla-Lookingglass Watershed Level Plan
South River Firewood Cutting Areas

Swiftwater Field Office

Shingle Lane Regen & Commercial Thinning
Watson Mountain
Powell Creek
Pipeline
What-a-Gas
Green Thunder
Bear Hill

Other Assessments

South River Aquatic Restoration Assessment

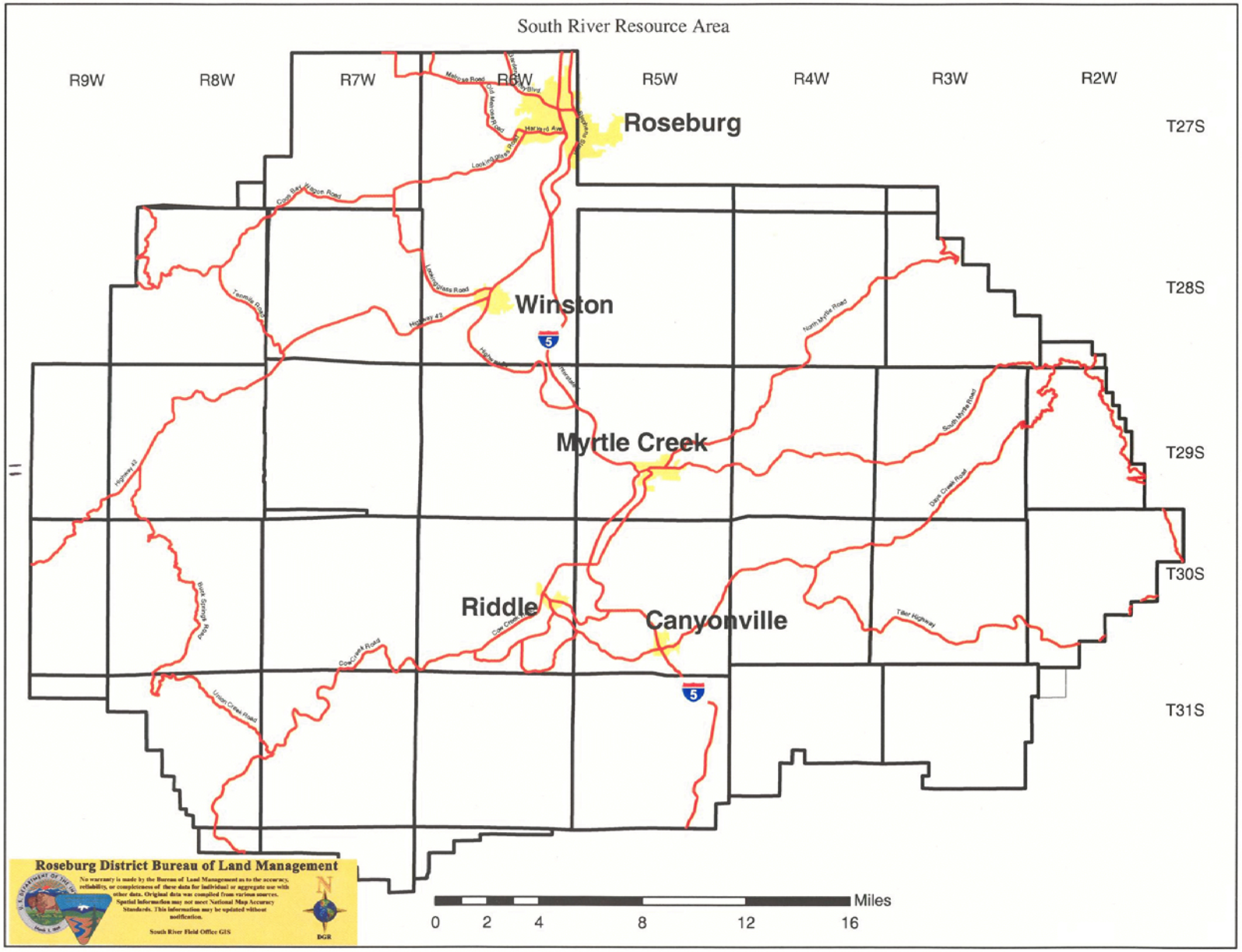
Planning effort to consolidate all information from data sources, inventories, watershed analysis, etc. This consolidated information would then allow the South River Field Office to identify problem areas to focus future restoration activities. Planning during winter 2001-2002 for implementation in summer/fall 2002

Forest Health and Hazard Assessment

Description: An assessment to identify risks such as fire, insects and disease on a landscape scale, and propose locations and potential treatments to address these risks.

Location: All lands within the South River Resource Area.

Analysis: Completion is expected by the end of August. The assessment is not a project analysis from which any decisions will be generated. Any proposed forest health or hazard-reduction treatments will require an assessment of environmental consequences and preparation of the appropriate level of documentation by a separate interdisciplinary team


South River Resource Area
R9W
R8W
R7W
R6W
R5W
R4W
R3W
R2W
T27S
T28S
T29S
T30S
T31S
Roseburg
Winston
Myrtle Creek
Riddle
Canyonville
5
Miles
0
2
4
8
12
16
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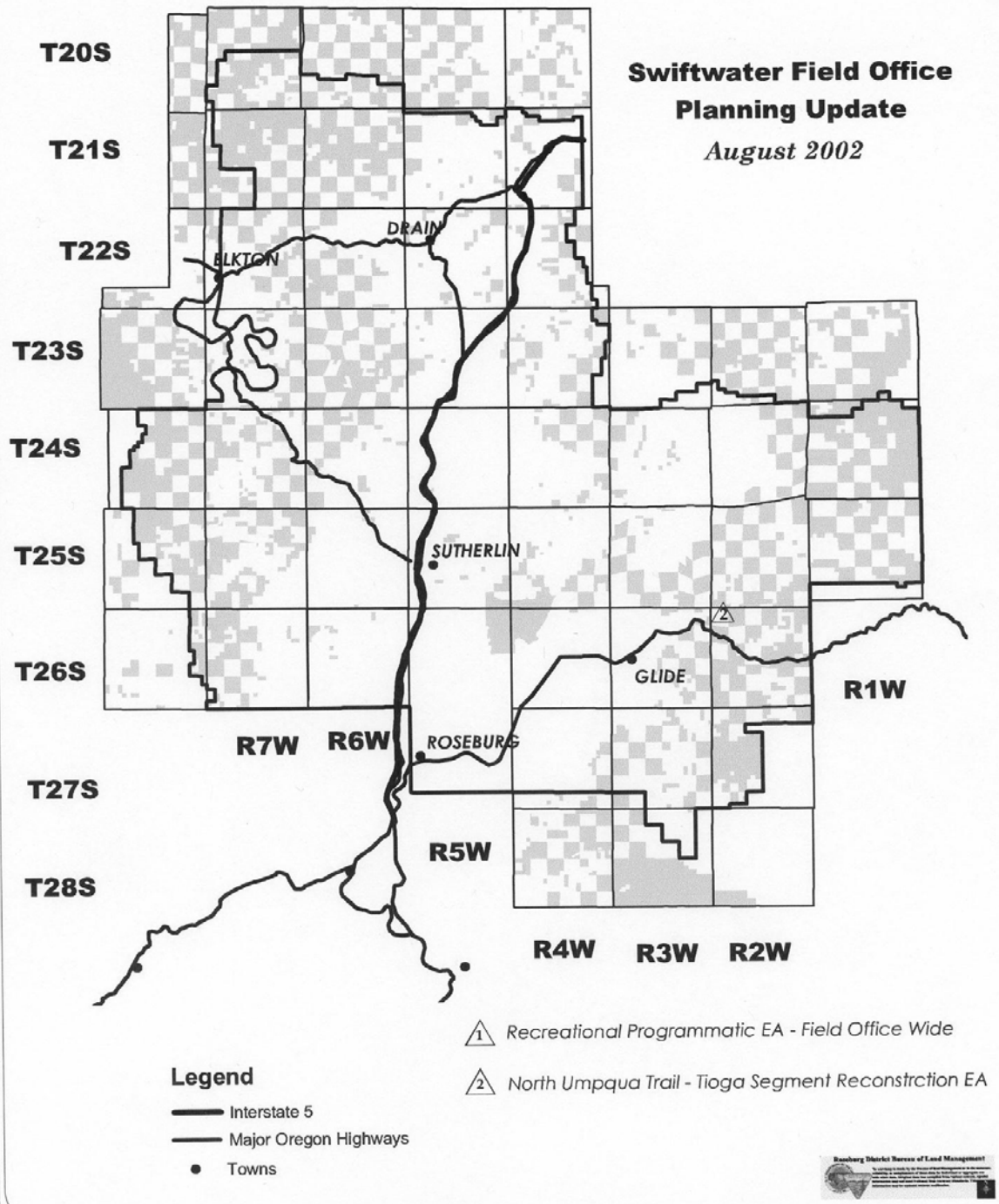

Abbreviations and Definitions

BO - Biological Opinion.

CF - Cubic feet.

CCF - Hundred cubic feet.

CX or Categorical Exclusion - Actions which do not have significant effects on the environment and for which an Environmental Analysis (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

EA - Environmental Assessment - A concise public document that briefly provides evidence and analysis of a proposed Federal action. It is used to determine whether further analysis needs to be done for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

IDT - Interdisciplinary Team - A group of resource specialists, whose participation is determined by the issues relating to the project proposal, and who conduct environmental analysis.

LSR - Late Successional Reserves - One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the Northwest Forest Plan. These reserves will maintain a functional, interactive, late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystem. Approximately 81% of the Roseburg District BLM is reserve.

Matrix Lands - One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the Northwest Forest Plan. Most timber harvest contributing to the Allowable Sale Quantity takes place in this area. Approximately 19% of the Roseburg District BLM is matrix.

MBF - Thousand board feet.

MMBF - Million board feet.

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act - A federal law which sets the systematic interdisciplinary analysis to achieve integrated consideration of physical, biological, economic, and other sciences to provide for an informed decision. The process provides for public participation in the development, review and revision of certain activities on Federal Lands.

NWFP - Northwest Forest Plan - A common name for the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 1994). It is also used to refer to the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species with the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl which accompanies the Record of Decision.

O&C Lands - Revested Oregon and California Railroad Lands.

Resource Management Plan (RMP) - A land use plan prepared by the BLM in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

Scoping - An early and open part of environmental analysis that allows interested public and other Federal, state and local agencies the opportunity to provide issues, concerns and opportunities relative to proposed project actions. Scoping is required by regulation for Environmental Impact Statements.