

# Bureau of Land Management Coos Bay District Planning Update

Summer 2023

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# *Coos Bay District BLM Planning Update*

Summer 2023

The *Planning Update* is published to provide current information about ongoing and future projects planned by the Coos Bay District of the Bureau of Land Management. It is our intent to increase the public's awareness of BLM activities and to seek feedback from those who may be affected by our resource management programs. Your feedback helps us make informed decisions and implement better projects. Please send written comments, including the specific project and field office name, during that project's public comment period to 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459 or to [BLM\\_OR\\_CB\\_Mail@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_CB_Mail@blm.gov).

Thank you for your continued interest in public land management.

The *Planning Update* is also available under the "Frequently Requested NEPA Documents" section at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/oregon-washington>

Sincerely,

/s/ Steve Lydick  
Coos Bay District Manager

USDI - Bureau of Land Management  
Coos Bay District Office  
1300 Airport Lane  
North Bend OR 97459  
[BLM\\_OR\\_CB\\_Mail@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_CB_Mail@blm.gov)  
(541) 756-0100

## ***ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES AND NEW PROJECTS***

Pages three through eight contain a summary of projects on the Coos Bay District. Some projects were previously listed and are still in the process of being completed, while others are in the process of being implemented. Projects that have been dropped from consideration, have a signed decision, or are completed will not be listed in future issues.

The contact people listed with the projects are available to answer questions and provide additional details. They are interested in information you wish to share concerning any of the projects or project areas. You may contact these people by mail, by telephoning our office at 541-756-0100, or emailing us at: [BLM\\_OR\\_CB\\_Mail@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_CB_Mail@blm.gov).

## **District**

### **Late Successional and Riparian Reserve Management Programmatic EA**

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C030-2021-0004-EA

**Description:** The goal of this EA is to address the need to apply treatments to previously managed stands within the Late Successional and Riparian Reserves to accelerate the development of spotted owl foraging, roosting, and nesting habitat as well as murrelet nesting habitat, along with meeting Management Direction for Riparian Reserves. This EA will present a range of treatment options with modeled stand responses, allowing managers and specialists the flexibility to tailor prescriptions based on current stand conditions. Management actions may include selection harvest, commercial thinning, or non-commercial treatments.

The analysis area for the EA includes approximately 123,000 acres of LSR and RR Land Use Allocations (LUA) within the Coos Bay District. There would be an average of 2,000 acres of treatments conducted in any given year with 80% of the acres in the 40–60-year-old age class and the remaining 20% in the 70–80-year-old age class.

Completed documents are located at

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2012984/510>

For further information contact Aimee Hoefs and refer to the LSR Programmatic EA.

**Location:** Various locations across the Coos Bay District.  
**Planning Status:** EA competed. DNAs in process  
**Decision:** February 13, 2023.  
**Implementation:** FY 2024.

### **Mossy Yoga SRP**

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C000-2023-0003-CX

**Description:** Mossy Lotus LLC would like to lead private eco-tours focused on yoga, mindfulness meditation, and Pranayama in a wild and natural setting. The tours will also promote ecotourism opportunities for our local community. Mossy Lotus LLC will use yoga equipment including mats and blocks but will follow the “Leave no Trace” ethic. The disturbance will include minimal trampling of ground vegetation from yoga mats and hiking to and from the destination.

**Location:** Various locations across the Coos Bay District.  
**Planning Status:** Appeal period closes 7/21/2023.  
**Decision:** 06/20/2023.  
**Implementation:** FY 2023–2024.

Completed documents are located at:

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2024425/510>

For further information contact Aimee Hoefs and refer to the Mossy Yoga SRP.

## Umpqua Field Office

### TIMBER MANAGEMENT

#### **Catching EA**

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C030-2019-0003-EA

**Description:** The BLM proposes approximately 817–841 acres of commercial timber harvest in the Harvest Land Base.

**Location:** T. 27 S., R. 12 W., Sections 19, 27, and 33  
T. 27 S., R. 13 W., Section 13

**Planning Status:** Scoping – Completed  
Analysis – Completed

**Decision Date:** Decisions – Starting in FY 2021

**Implementation:** Timber Sales planned for FY 2021 through FY 2024

For further information, click on the following link [DOI-BLM-ORWA-C030-2019-0003-EA](#), or contact Heather Partipilo.

#### **Pickin Sticks CT, Big Iron CT, Shady Space CT, and Ash Valley CT Timber Sales DNA**

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C030-2023-0001-DNA

**Description:** The BLM proposes to commercially thin Douglas-fir stands associated with the [Late-Successional and Riparian Reserve Management Programmatic EA](#).

**Locations:** Pickin Sticks CT: T. 23 S., R. 09 W., Sections 20, 28, 29, 30  
Big Iron CT: T. 21 S., R. 08 W., Section 7  
Shady Space CT: T. 23 S., R. 08 W., Sections 30, 31  
Ash Valley CT: T. 23 S., R. 09 W., Sections 19, 29, 30

**Planning Status:** Scoping – Completed under EA  
Review – In Progress

**Decision Date:** Decisions – FY 2024

**Implementation:** Planned for FY 2024 or after

For further information, contact Heather Partipilo and refer to the Pickin Sticks CT, Big Iron CT, Shady Space CT, and Ash Valley CT Timber Sales DNA project.

# Myrtlewood Field Office

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

### **Big Weekly Elk Forest Management Project**

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2019-0006-EA

**Description:** The proposed actions include regeneration timber harvest, commercial thinning, commercial restoration treatments, non-commercial restoration treatments, fuels treatments, transportation management, and snag creation within the Harvest Land Base (HLB), Late Successional Reserve (LSR), and Riparian Reserve (RR) land use allocations.

**Locations:** T. 28 S., R. 10 W., Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 29  
T. 28 S., R. 11 W., Sections 02, 16, 17, 18, 23, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36  
T. 29 S., R. 10 W., Sections 06, 07, 08, 09, 17, 28, 29, 30  
T. 29 S., R. 11 W., Sections 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 09, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31  
T. 29 S., R. 12 W., Sections 23 and 24  
T. 30 S., R. 11 W., Sections 01, 04, 06, 08  
T. 30 S., R. 12 W., Sections 01 and 12

**Planning Status:** Complete.

**Decisions:** Ongoing.

**Implementation:** Timber Sales planed for FY 2022 through 2024.

For further information, please click on the following link <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/123294/510> or contact Teresa Sue.

### **Preacher Man DNA**

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2020-0007-DNA

**Description:** The BLM proposes to include 10 additional acres of the Harvest Land Base LUA to the Preacher Man Timber Sale and to construct 675 ft. of new road through the proposed area. This new road construction will eliminate the need for 3880 ft. of road improvement and 220 ft. of new construction that was analyzed in the EA. With the roads that are currently planned, approximately 430 ft. of new construction, which was not analyzed, would still need to be added for operational feasibility.

Furthermore, the proposed road eliminates the cost to the government to buy into the existing private road and the costs to improve the road to support all-season haul. Approximately 100 ft. of the proposed road will be within a riparian buffer.

This Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) is associated with the Upper Rock Creek Environmental Assessment.

**Location:** T. 29 S., R. 09 W., Section 31

**Planning Status:** Appealed, Stay Denied by IBLA, Appeal Response complete.

**Implementation:** Harvest complete, pile burning in the fall.

For further information, see <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2001576/510> or contact Teresa Sue.

## **Baker's Dozen**

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2023-0002-EA

**Description:** The Myrtlewood Field Office proposes to conduct timber harvest actions including commercial and regeneration harvest on approximately 1,695 acres of Harvest Land Base (HLB) in stands aged 30-150 years old in the South Fork Coquille River 5th field watershed. Potential harvest units are in HLB—Low Intensity Timber Area (LITA) and Moderate Intensity Timber Area (MITA) and Riparian Reserve land use allocations (LUAs) under the 2016 Northwestern and Coastal Oregon Record of Decision/Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP). Commercial thinning is proposed in the outer zone of Riparian Reserves across Class 1 and Class 2 watersheds as well as in portions of HLB LUAs. Regenerated stands would be prepared for replanting by removing most of the residual logging slash through broadcast or pile burning. Management direction in the ROD/RMP for each LUA will guide proposed treatments. As part of the proposed project, the BLM would construct new roads and would renovate, reconstruct, or improve existing roads to access units identified for treatment. New road construction or road improvement could occur within the Riparian Reserve. The BLM would propose to decommission certain roads if necessary.

**Location:** T. 30 S., R. 12 W., Sections 29 and 31  
T. 30 S., R. 13 W., Sections 25, 34, and 35  
T. 31 S., R. 12 W., Sections 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, and 23  
T. 31 S., R. 13 W., Section 1

**Planning Status:** Scoping Completed

**Decision Date:** FY 2024

**Implementation:** FY 2025

For further information see <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2023471/510> or contact Teresa Sue.

## **OTHER**

### **Palmer Butte Communication Site Hazard Fuel Reduction CX**

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2023-0005-CX

**Description:** The proposed action would reduce the hazardous fuel loading (predominantly hairy manzanita) around the communication site to levels that will lower the likelihood of damage to critical infrastructure during a wildfire event. Brush would be cut to a height not to exceed 1 foot within an area extending approximately 160 feet from buildings and infrastructure (see map below). This would result in approximately 3 acres surrounding the communication facilities with low vegetation that would only support relatively low flame lengths. In addition to clearing around the structures, removal of shrubs along 2,528 feet of the access road would be included. This roadside shrub removal is necessary to allow for adequate equipment access and turn-around, as well as provide a location for decking logs.

**Location:** T. 40 S., R. 13 W., S. 10.

**Planning Status:** In Process.

**Decision:** Summer 2023

**Implementation:** Summer/Fall 2023

For further Information, see <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2025393/510> or contact Aimee Hoefs.

## ACEC Port Orford Cedar Stand Management

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2019-0010-CX

**Description:** Leading into the Hunter Creek Bog and Upper Rock Creek ACECs, the BLM intends to protect old growth stands of POC from developing POC root disease by removing select potential host trees, between the infected location and uninfected location. The BLM would slash POC less than 10” DBH and would snag POC greater than 10” DBH and leave them standing unless they pose a roadside hazard. The largest tree would be 24” for hunter Bog and 14” for Upper Rock Creek.

**Location:** T. 37 S., R. 13 W., S. 24 and T 29 S., R. 9 W., S. 05.  
**Planning Status:** In Process.  
**Decision:** Summer 2023  
**Implementation:** Starting Fall 2023

For further information, see <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2010651/510> or contact Aimee Hoefs.

## New River Earthquake Early Warning Seismic Station ROW

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C030-2023-0006-CX

**Description:** The proposed action would authorize a right-of-way grant. The proposed right-of-way grant would allow the construction, maintenance, operation, and termination of seismic sensors and associated equipment along with access New River. The proposed right-of-way grant would include the right to do minor trimming, pruning, and removing of vegetation to maintain the right-of-way or facility (43 CFR 2805.14 (d)). The right-of-way grant would include an area approximately 5’ × 5’ for a facility. The site will utilize a cellular modem for telemetry.

**Location:** T. 30 S., R. 15 W., Sec. 11  
**Planning Status:** Appeal closes September 11, 2023.  
**Decision Date:** Fall 2023.  
**Implementation:** After Fall 2023

For further information see <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2025490/570> or contact Aimee Hoefs.

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The following DNAs (Determination of NEPA Adequacy) are associated with the Programmatic Aquatic Restoration EA <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/admin/project/70143/510>.

## Coquille and Sixes Rivers Culvert Replacements DNA

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2023-0001-DNA

**Description:** In the proposed Coquille and Sixes Rivers Fish Culvert Replacements project, the BLM would remove six undersized, degraded, and perched culverts and replace them with a single, appropriately sized culvert following specific management direction to maintain and restore access to stream channels for all life stages of aquatic species (ROD/RMP p. 78). The new culverts would meet or exceed design standards consistent with existing ESA consultation documents that address stream crossings in the decision area (ROD/RMP p. 79). The locations are located on Woodward Creek tributaries, Sandy Creek tributary, Edson Creek tributaries, and Honcho Creek.

**Location:** T. 27 S., R. 12 W, Sec. 01

T. 29 S., R. 10 W, Sec. 15  
T. 32 S., R. 14 W., Sec. 06 and  
T. 27 S., R. 10 W., Sec. 04.

**Planning Status:** In process.  
**Decision Date:** Fall 2023.  
**Implementation:** Summer 2024–2025

For further information, see <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2023858/510> or contact Aimee Hoefs.

## **East Fork (EF) Coquille Habitat Improvement DNA**

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C000-2023-0002-DNA

**Description:** The proposed EF Coquille Habitat Improvement project would remove two undersized, degraded, and/or perched culverts (Knepper and Lausch) and replace them with a single, appropriately sized culvert following specific management direction to maintain and restore access to stream channels for all life stages of aquatic species (ROD/RMP p. 78). The new culverts would meet or exceed design standards consistent with existing ESA consultation documents that address stream crossings in the decision area (ROD/RMP p. 79). Additionally, the proposed EF Coquille Habitat Improvement project would place approximately 30 logs (with and without rootwads) and 30 boulders at seven sites; enhance 7.7 acres of riparian habitat by planting 1,927 native trees and shrubs; treating 7.7 acres for noxious weeds; and removing five concrete sills that impede fish movement (Lower Steel Creek).

**Location:** T. 28 S., R. 09 W., Sec. 12  
T. 28 S., R. 11 W., Sec. 12

**Planning Status:** In process.  
**Decision Date:** Fall 2023.  
**Implementation:** Summer 2024–2025

For further information see <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2023896/510> or contact Aimee Hoefs.