

# The Northwest Forest Plan

## Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon

### *Background*

In 1994, the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) established a common framework for managing federal landscapes in the Pacific Northwest. The principles of the NWFP included:

- Include human and economic dimensions in management;
- Protect the long term health of forests, wildlife, waterways;
- Actions must be scientifically sound, ecologically credible, and legally responsible;
- Produce a predictable and sustainable level of timber sales and non-timber resources; and
- Federal agencies must work together in collaboration not confrontation.

More than 20 years have passed since the inception of the NWFP. There is new scientific information about threats (such as climate change), new recovery plans, and new critical habitat determinations. In 2011, the BLM conducted resource management plan (RMP) evaluations, and concluded that a plan revision is needed to address the changed circumstances and new information that has led to a substantial, long-term departure from predicted outcomes. In in current plan revision process, the BLM is incorporating lessons learned from 20 years of implementation experience and monitoring results.

### *Key Points*

- The BLM is committed to managing according to the principles established for the NWFP, consistent with agency-specific mandates.
- The BLMs is coordinating and collaborating with the Forest Service and other federal agencies on the latest available science, monitoring, and implementation processes.
  - The BLM is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on Endangered Species Act consultation, and with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) related to the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act compliance.
  - The BLM is committed to working with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and tribal partners throughout their planning effort, and will continue to share information with the public on planning activities.
- The Forest Service, BLM, and 11 other federal agencies are signatories to the Regional Interagency Executive (RIEC) Framework, which outlines general concepts to help frame land management plan revisions and amendments. The BLM coordinates frequently with the other agencies on sharing information with the public, scientific analysis, and planning decisions.
- The Survey and Manage Program included in the NWFP was only incorporated into the No Action alternative. All of the action alternatives and the Proposed RMP propose to manage non-listed species as part of the BLM's Special Status Species Program.
- The BLM brought forward the concepts of the NWFP Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) into the Proposed RMP:



- Riparian Reserves: The Proposed RMP includes Riparian Reserves on all streams and includes an inner zone on all streams in which commercial forest management is generally not permitted.
- Key Watersheds: The Proposed RMP carries forward the concept of key watersheds from the NWFP, in that it varies riparian management based on the importance of the subwatershed to the conservation and recovery of ESA-listed fish.
- Watershed Analysis: The BLM will compile watershed-scale information on aquatic and riparian resources to better identify resource conditions, risks, and restoration opportunities, and to document ecological processes.
- Watershed Restoration: Watershed restoration continues to be an integral part of the BLM's program to contribute to the conservation and recovery of listed fish and to protect water quality.

The Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon will determine how the BLM-administered lands in western Oregon will be managed , to produce a sustained yield of timber products, to further the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide for clean water, to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, to provide for recreation opportunities, and to coordinate management of lands surrounding the Coquille Forest with the Coquille Tribe.

For more information, please visit the BLM's Resource Management Plans of western Oregon website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/index.php>.