

## About the Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon

### **Introduction:**

The Resource Management Plans in western Oregon will provide direction for the management of approximately 2.5 million acres of BLM-administered lands, for the purposes of producing a sustained yield of timber, contributing to the recovery of threatened and endangered species, providing clean water, restoring fire adapted ecosystems, providing for recreation opportunities, and coordinating the management of lands surrounding the Coquille Forest with the Coquille Tribe. These lands play an important role to the social, economic, and ecological well-being of western Oregon, as well as to the greater American public. The planning area consists of the Coos Bay District, Eugene District, Medford District, Roseburg District, Salem District, and the Klamath Falls Field Office of the Lakeview District.

This planning effort has included a broad spectrum of stakeholders interested in developing a positive, long-term vision for the management of BLM-administered lands in western Oregon. Products from this collaborative effort may also be used to inform this BLM planning process.

In 2011, the BLM completed a Resource Management Plan Evaluation and found a need for changes to the timber and wildlife programs and minor changes to most other programs. For example:

- There is new information and changed circumstances relevant to management objectives and direction for northern spotted owls and land use allocations. The new Recovery Plan for the northern spotted owl was completed in 2011 and includes recovery actions not addressed in the 1995 Resource Management Plans.
- There are new listings, recovery plans (or draft recovery plans), and designations of critical habitat for other fish, plant, and terrestrial species.
- There has been a substantial long-term departure from the timber management outcomes predicted under the 1995 Resource Management Plans.

The 1995 Resource Management Plans have become less and less useful as a guide for management actions due to many new BLM policies, laws, and other new information for most programs including invasive species management, biomass, energy and minerals, recreation, and public motorized access management. This planning effort seeks to address the shortcomings found in the evaluation.

### **Key Points:**

- The 2.5 million acres of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in western Oregon lands play an important role in the region's social, ecological, and economic well-being. As stewards of these lands, the BLM has a responsibility to ensure that our



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management is effectively meeting our legal mandates and the needs of the communities in western Oregon.

- Protecting endangered species by providing large blocks of older forest habitat, providing clean water, and enhancing fire resiliency across the landscape are necessary for the BLM to be able to deliver a predictable and sustainable supply of timber. The BLM is committed to these environmental protections, as well as providing predictability and sustainability to communities in western Oregon.
  
- The Purposes of the plan revision are to:
  - Provide a sustained yield of timber;
  - Contribute to the conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species, including: maintaining a network of large blocks of forest to be managed for late-successional forests, and maintaining older and more structurally complex multi-layered conifer forests;
  - Provide clean water in watersheds;
  - Restore fire-adapted ecosystems;
  - Provide recreation opportunities; and
  - Coordinate management of lands surrounding the Coquille Forest with the Coquille Tribe.
  
- BLM conducted early engagement in Endangered Species Act consultation and is closely coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

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>.