

Riparian

Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon

Background:

The BLM is required to comply with:

The Clean Water Act, to restore and maintain the nation's waterways, and the O&C Act, which requires protection of watersheds and streams in order to provide a sustained-yield of timber. The BLM partnered with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop Riparian management strategies that would provide for clean water, protect high quality habitat for fish and water, and ensure that local communities can rely on a predictable and sustainable water supply.

Key Points:

- The BLM brought forward the concepts of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) into the Proposed Resource Management Plans (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 BLM partnered with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Environment Protection Agency (EPA), and FWS to develop Riparian (and aquatic) Conservation Strategies. The Proposed RMP does propose a reduction in the size of stream buffers from two-site potential tree height to one-site potential tree height or less, but would provide more protections near streams compared to the Northwest Forest Plan. Our analysis examined in detail the effects of the alternatives on stream shading, wood supply to streams, and sediment protection. This analysis shows that the Proposed RMP would provide protections for fish and water quality that are as good as or better than the Northwest Forest Plan, despite the smaller Riparian Reserves.

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>.

