

Socio-Economic Analysis

Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon

Background

In the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Final Environmental Impact Statement, the BLM analyzed how each alternative affects the supply, demand, and value of goods and services derived from BLM lands, such as timber, forest products, tourism and recreation, and energy production. The analysis also included:

- The economic impacts of various timber harvest volumes and methods for local communities over the next ten decades;
- The economic contributions of other goods and services, including special forest products, energy, grazing, and minerals;
- The economic impacts of non-market goods and services of non-market good and services, including recreation and carbon storage;
- Community capacity and resiliency;
- Payments to counties;
- Costs to the BLM.

Key Points

- BLM-administered lands provide a wide variety of market and non-market goods and services to the planning area such as timber, recreation, carbon storage, minerals, and source water protection.
- The annual harvest value of timber, compared to \$23 million in 2012, would increase under all alternatives and the Proposed RMP. Under the Proposed RMP, the annual harvest value of timber would increase to \$51 million.
- Using non-market valuation techniques, recreation on BLM-administered lands had a value of \$223 million in 2012. Based on a phased recreation development timeline of 50 years, the value of recreation in 2023 would range from \$243 million under Alternative A to \$278 million under Alternative D. Under the Proposed RMP, the value of recreation in 2023 would be \$271 million.
- Carbon storage on BLM-administered lands had a value of \$85 million in 2012. The annual value of net carbon storage would increase under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives except Alternative C, under which it would fall to \$43 million. Under the Proposed RMP, the annual value of net carbon storage would increase to \$159 million.
- In 2012, BLM management contributed 7,900 jobs and \$355 million in earnings to the planning area, which is about 0.4 percent of the total jobs and earnings. Under the Proposed RMP, contributions would be 8,500 jobs and \$330 million in earnings.
- Employment effects to low-income populations in Coos and Curry Counties would be disproportionately negative under the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A, B, and D.



- There is uncertainty regarding the source and amounts of future payments to counties from activities on BLM-administered lands. Payments under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) have not been authorized beyond 2016. SRS payments to counties totaled \$38 million in 2012. Had payments in 2012 been based on the O&C Act formula, they would have been \$12 million. Under the action alternatives and the Proposed RMP, assuming payments were based on the formula in the O&C Act, payments in 2018 would range from a low of \$19 million under Alternative D, to a high of \$67 million under Alternative C. The Proposed RMP would result in payments of \$26 million.

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>.