

To: Dan Thorpe, District Forester, Southwest Oregon District

From: Chris Rudd, Management Unit Forester

CC: Dave Lorenz, Acting Southern Oregon Area Director,  
Mike Cafferata, Deputy Chief, State Forests Program  
Rob Nall, Operations Coordinator, State Forests Program

Date: July 11, 2011

Re: Approved Annual Operations Plan for 2012

The 2012 State Forests Annual Operations Plan for the Southwest Oregon District is attached for your information. During my review of this plan, I have found that it is consistent with the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan, the current District Implementation Plan, and the 2012 Annual Operations Planning Standards and Guidance memorandum.

There are two primary sales this year and two alternates. Windy Bear, on the east side of Windy Creek would harvest 800 MBF for a minimum of \$106,000. Quines Run, a CSL sale, would harvest 2.0 MMBF at approximately \$306,000. The two alternate sales carry over from previous years, the 70 acre Savage Creek Thin and 80 Acre Cottonwood Thin.

This annual operations plan covers proposed forest management activities for fiscal year 2012. During its preparation, this plan was reviewed by technical specialists from within the department and biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and USFWS. Their comments were received verbally and in writing (written comments are on file at the district office. The draft annual operations plan also underwent a 45-day public comment period. No public comments were received.

Approval of this plan does not constitute final approval of individual project details. Individual timber sales are subject to additional review processes at the district and program staff level before approval for auction. The operations described in this plan may be modified during the final preparation and/or implementation. Modifications to these operations will conform to the process included in the draft Annual Operations Planning Directive.

The official copy of this Annual Operations Plan will be on file at the district office. Additional copies are available at the State Forests Program office in Salem, and is also available on the ODF web site at: [http://oregon.gov/ODF/STATE\\_FORESTS/planning.shtml](http://oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/planning.shtml)

APPROVED:



Dan Thorpe, District Forester, Southwest Oregon

7/13/2011

Date

**SOUTHWEST OREGON  
DISTRICT  
2012 ANNUAL  
OPERATIONS PLAN**

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# Southwest OR DISTRICT

## 2012 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

This Annual Operations Plan (AOP) describes activities and projects designed to achieve the goals and objectives of the Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan (FMP) – January 2001, and the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan (IP) – March 2003. Note that this IP has reached the end of its planning cycle but has been extended through 2012. In addition, this plan is designed to comply with State Forest Policies governing Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Plants and Animals. The Southwest Oregon District manages approximately 17,439 acres of State Forest land in Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, and Curry counties. For more information regarding the strategies used to manage State Forests in Southwest Oregon, refer to the Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan – January 2001. For more information on the resources and characteristics specific to the Southwest Oregon District, refer to the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan – March 2003.

The Southwest Oregon District 2012 Annual Operations Plan is organized to include the following:

1. Annual Operations Plan Summary document which includes sections on timber harvest operations, forest roads, young stand management operations, and recreation.
2. Annual Operations Plan Summary tables
3. Pre-Operation Reports with unit maps (available upon request)
4. Preliminary Biological Assessments of the planned harvest operations (available upon request)
5. Public Involvement Summary (this section will be added prior to the approval of the AOP)

Table 1 below documents the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan – March 2003 (modified in 2007) activities and the range of acreages that could be reasonably anticipated in a given year, as well as the acres proposed through this AOP. Further refinement of the acreage will occur during the field preparation of the planned commercial forest operation.

Table 1. Annual Operations Plan objectives compared to annual objectives identified in the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan. All values are acres, except for Volume.

Silvicultural Activity	IP Annual Objective		2012 AOP Objective
	Low	High	
Partial Cut Harvest	150	270	242
Regeneration Harvest	0	50	45
Rehabilitation	0	0	0
Reforestation (Initial Planting)	0	270	114
Pre-commercial Thinning	0	500	200
Fertilization	0	250	0
Pruning	0	50	1,424

The management activities planned for FY 2012 are based on the range of objectives established in the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan (Table 1), as well as the assumption that budget allotments will be similar to 2011. The Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan, which was approved in 2003 and was intended to be in effect until June 30, 2011, will remain in effect until revisions to the plan are completed and approved by the State Forester. The extension of the 2003 Implementation Plan is documented in a February 15, 2011 memorandum from the State Forester.

Harvest Levels: In accordance with the guidance on the 2012 harvest levels, the district has included 287 acres of timber harvest in this AOP (Table A-1). This harvest level is consistent with the district's intensive review of the outputs from the Department's Harvest and Habitat Model Project. The district is implementing the mix of clearcut and thinning acres identified in its review of the model outputs and addressed in the IP modification (April 2007).

## INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

### Timber Harvest Operations

#### **Overview of Timber Harvest Operations**

The 2012 sale plan provides for 242 net acres of partial cutting and 45 acres of modified clear-cut harvesting in mixed conifer stands. Quines Run and Windy Bear are the primary sales bringing in a combined revenue of \$412,300 on 2.8 million board feet. This amount of harvest represents less than 2% of the State Forest land in the Southwest Oregon District. Savage Creek Thin and Cottonwood Thin are the alternate sales submitted to backfill acres that may be lost due to environmental restrictions. All units were selected on the basis of stand management needs in light of the current stand structures and the desired future condition objectives. In all of the harvest units, stand complexity will progress toward the desired future condition through the retention of all "legacy" forest structure components (such as snags, down wood, old-growth trees etc.), the retention of the majority of the overstory, the utilization of a variety of residual densities and small open patches, site

preparation, and underplanting of a variety of forest tree species. In addition, the structural components of snags and downed wood will be created where deficiencies exist.

The revenue projections on these sales use a stumpage value of \$175 based on past stumpage prices and professional judgment. This value is low by historical standards and may increase based on market conditions. The sale volume is also an estimate based on the available inventory data and the final sale layout design.

### Minor Landscape Design Modifications

A landscape design modification is being proposed in this AOP and is described in a memo to the director as a minor modification to the implementation plan. This change will affect 30 acres of land classified as complex. After this modification, the district will still be well above the minimum acreage specified in the Forest Management Plan for complex habitat.

Stand type 5127 (17 acres) and 5240 (13 acres) were inventoried to SLI standards. The stands are CSC with some complex characteristics, mainly residual older pines on the ridge of 5127. These pines and all trees over 32" in the stands will be reserved from cutting.

Table #. Minor Landscape Design Modifications

Operation/Unit	Modification	Acres Added	Acres Removed
Quines Run Area 3, 5127	Changed DFC LYR to General	17	17
Quines Run Area 4, 5240	Changed DFC LYR to General	13	13
Total Change		30	30

### Summary of Timber Harvest Operations by Basin

The Rogue and Umpqua basins are the two main watersheds that encompass the SWO district land base. These basins are rather large compared to the total land of the district. The Umpqua Watershed encompasses most of Douglas County and is approximately 2.7 million acres. ODF managed lands in the Umpqua Watershed cover 8,136 acres of the basin. The Rogue Basin covers 3.25 million acres- 9,303 of which is managed by ODF.

Table 2. Summary of Timber Harvest Operations in each basin. All values are in net acres.

Basin	2012 AOP	
	Partial Cut	Clearcut
Rogue	0	0
Umpqua	242	45

## Rogue Basin

The two alternate sales are in the Rogue basin. Savage Creek is an 80 acre closed single canopy stand that would become layered post harvest. Cottonwood Creek is an 80 acre (net) thinning sale that will open the unit from a closed single canopy to an understory development stand.

## Umpqua Basin

The two primary sales are in the Umpqua basin. These sales impact a very small percentage of the area total basin area. After harvesting these sales, 213 acres of CSC will go to a combination of Reg (30 acres), Closed Single Canopy (79 acres), and understory Development (104 acres). Seventy four acres will stay in UDS. Of the 45 acres of regeneration noted in previous tables, 15 acres consist of small patch cuts 3 acres or less that will become UDS. At this scale, the sales will have little impact on the Umpqua watershed.

## Forest Roads Management

### **Overview**

The primary purposes of the transportation management activities are to continue the development and maintenance of a low impact transportation system for the management of Southwest Oregon District State Forests. Due to the scattered nature of the SWO District ownership, the typical transportation pattern for access to State Forest land is one primary road crossing a variety of landowners and several access spurs once within State Forest property. The primary roads needed to access State Forest property will be maintained at a level consistent with the access agreement developed by the District and the appropriate landowner.

Access spurs within State Forest properties are developed to maintain the appropriate management presence that is anticipated for a given tract. For tracts requiring an extended management presence, surface rock and drainage structures will be incorporated into the road design. For tracts requiring limited management presence, naturally surfaced, seasonal roads with temporary drainage structures will be utilized. Upon completion of the operation, all access spurs will be assessed for closure.

All of the proposed timber sales have existing forest roads that will require upgrades in order to meet access requirements. These roads will be improved or constructed to meet the minimum design standards necessary to prevent impact to streams. Various prescriptions for road renovation will be required including but not limited to: resurfacing with rock, replacing undersized culverts, adding new culverts as needed for proper drainage, grading and ditching, and roadside brushing. Also, any potential hazards such as slides, sidecast material, and other drainage issues will be identified and corrected. The primary objective is to minimize the effect forest roads have on water quality and slope stability and at the same time provide a safe and efficient transportation system. Some of the naturally surfaced roads will have the drainage reestablished, be grass seeded, and blocked upon completion of the operation to minimize erosion and sedimentation. In addition, Level III planning, in accordance with the State Forests Forest Roads Manual, is conducted for each operation.



See the attached Pre-Operations Reports for more detailed information concerning road activities within each operation area.

During active timber harvest, the purchaser of the sale will maintain these roads. Upon completion of the sale, road maintenance responsibility on private and Federal land will be returned to the landowner.

Prior to any major forest activity such as logging, an inventory of noxious weeds will be conducted along the travel route. ODF will work with the BLM and other neighboring landowners to remove and control noxious weeds before they are spread by forest use activities.

The level of new road construction and improvement is kept to a minimum in harvest planning to reduce costs where possible. This is particularly true in the current market. Road building costs will be kept to a minimum, but not at the expense of best management practices aimed at controlling erosion.

See Table A-3 in the Appendix for summary information concerning road activities.

### **Road Construction**

Road construction will primarily focus on the development of low use spurs necessary for operation access. Most of these spurs will remain naturally surfaced during the operation and generally have natural drainage reestablished, be grass seeded, and blocked upon completion of the operation to minimize erosion and sedimentation. For this sale plan, approximately 1.6 miles of road will be constructed at a cost of \$46,000 (Table A-3).

### **Road Improvement**

Road improvement will focus on low use spurs on Department of Forestry managed lands. These roads may be open or closed to vehicular travel but will need to be improved for commercial activity. Upon completion of the operation, drainage will be reestablished, and natural surfaced roads will be grass seeded, and blocked to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Approximately 1.2 miles of roads will be improved in the 2012 sale plan at a cost of about \$3,000.

### **Road Access Management**

The typical transportation pattern for access to State Forest land is to use one primary road crossing a variety of landowners and several access spurs once within State Forest ownership. This makes road access management difficult. When feasible, road systems currently in place will be utilized for State Forest access. This will require coordination and permission with adjacent landowners. At times, road maintenance on other forest landowner road systems will be required as a condition of use.

Once on State ownership, the road system will be maintained in a condition which best reflects use intensity, duration, and season. Roads receiving medium to high use, frequent use, or all season use, will be surfaced with rock to prevent damage to the road and the aquatic system. These roads will be ditched including cross drainage, and will have sufficient drainage to pass a 50 year flood event. Roads receiving medium to low use, infrequent use, or seasonal use will remain unsurfaced during the operation, outsloped with waterbars, and

will generally have natural drainage reestablished, be grass seeded, and blocked upon completion of the operation to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Therefore, medium to high use roads will generally be maintained in an active use condition while medium to low use roads will be maintained in a closed to vacated condition.

## **Road Maintenance**

Road maintenance is typically conducted with harvest operations as a means to conduct the operation as well as to maintain or improve the condition of the transportation system. Road maintenance conducted apart from harvest operations is accomplished as needed by the district. As a means of reducing road induced sedimentation, the District actively grass seeds areas susceptible to erosion. Grass seed is obtained through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

## **Land Surveying**

Southwest Oregon District uses certified land surveyors from Coos District of the ODF when property line boundaries are adjacent to other landowners. The east line of Windy Bear is shared with the BLM and was surveyed for their recent harvest of that unit. Quines Run has a shared boundary with BLM land to the north and east. Both of these lines will need to be touched up with a staff compass. Cottonwood Thin was surveyed by the Forest Service. Savage Creek will need some flag work with the staff compass. Quines Run has been surveyed and flagged with a staff compass. Windy Bear shares two sides with the BLM. Surveys were completed as part of a recent timber sale.

## Young Stand Management

This section on Young Stand Management is designed to give insight into the reforestation management activities such as site preparation, reforestation, tree protection, and pre-commercial thinning. Under the Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan (FMP) and the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan, the objectives for the SWO District are to maintain the high level of biodiversity exhibited throughout the landscape as well as provide for economic and social sustainability in the future. This will be accomplished while functioning at the appropriate budget matrix level using the management activities below.

ODF is still in a limited reforestation budget, least cost, to accomplish reforestation to reestablish stands according to the forest practices act standards. On the district we will be planting where necessary and performing limited site preparation to reestablish stands of timber. A pre-harvest chemical application prevents stump sprouting hardwoods from reestablishing. Woody shrubs will be sprayed in an early foliar application. Pre-commercial thinning is also another cost effective way to reduce stocking and competition between trees.

See Table 1 above and Table A-4 in the Appendix for summary information concerning Young Stand Management.

## **Site Preparation**

Site preparation is used to create planting space and reduce competing vegetation. In addition, site preparation is an excellent means to reduce the fuel loading following a commercial operation. Without slash management methods, one can expect to see higher

rates of mortality, a higher risk of catastrophic loss from fire, and losses in growth, vigor, and overall health due to competition from surrounding vegetation. The goal of site preparation is to create excellent micro-sites that are free of competing vegetation which minimizes seedling mortality and creates an area relatively safe from loss due to wildland fire. Mechanical site preparation combined with slash piling, slash burning and/or slash removal creates planting spaces. Slash removal may come in the form of yarding unmerchantable tree tops to landing areas combined with public or commercial wood cutting permits.

In the 2012 plan, the district anticipates that three harvest units (134 acres) would benefit from site preparation. The units are Quines Run, Windy Bear, and Raspberry Mountain. The exact prescriptions will be determined at the time of harvest and beyond as the stand progresses. A combination of pre-harvest chemical application, slash piling and foliar spray will be used.

## **Planting**

Planting helps to reestablish forest stands, or to create layering and diversity of canopies. Initial planting serves to reforest an area following a clearcut, patch cut, or severe wildfire. Interplanting helps to improve reforestation success when significant mortality results due to wildland fire, animal browse, drought, freeze, or other event usually targeting only a portion of the stand. Underplanting creates multiple forest canopy layers while maintaining or improving overall stand health and diversity. In addition, each of these planting strategies has a target stocking level for the planted species. Initial planting and interplanting attempt to achieve 250 to 300 viable trees per acre while underplanting may only need 50 to 100 viable trees per acre.

For the fiscal year 2012 the District will conduct an initial planting of 114 acres Northwest Windy, Perkins Creek, Woods Creek South, and Raspberry Mountain would be planted. Planting will depend on actual levels of harvest, seedling survivability, and the approved budget.

## **Vegetation Management**

Vegetation management may be accomplished through foliar spray or manual release (chainsaws). Hack and squirt prior to harvesting a unit is a cost effective means of reducing future vegetation and minimizing vegetation management at a later date. Stump treatments may give greater flexibility and safety during harvest where the tree is cut and the cambium layer is treated on the stump immediately. Still another method is to treat suckers when they are about 1 inch thick by basal spray or hack and squirt. All of these methods are aimed at reducing competition from madrone, chinkapin, tanoak and other aggressive hardwoods allowing reestablishment of conifer stands.

Vegetation Management occurs on the district in a number of ways. Some of the techniques used in site preparation would be considered vegetation management for example. This year the vegetation management will come through the site prep mentioned above, and through Pre-commercial thinning (PCT) and understory thinning in ARRA grants. About 84 acres will be hack and squirted (see site prep) and an additional 1,424 acres will be treated for fuels. The majority of this will be understory thinning and a limited amount will be in the younger age classes (PCT).

## **Tree Protection**

Deer and elk have proven to browse aggressively on newly planted seedlings in this District. They often damage the terminal bud of young trees stunting tree growth and/or causing seedling mortality by browsing on the new growth. The damage done by deer and elk can have a significant effect on the stocking level. To avoid re-entry and future interplanting, an application of Big Game Repellant (BGR) has shown to be extremely successful in deterring animal browse.

In fiscal year 2012, the district will apply BGR to approximately 84 acres in young stand plantations.

## **Pre-commercial Thinning**

This treatment is used on stands that have over 250 trees or woody stems per acre. If these stands are not thinned it can significantly increase the number of growing years before the stand is merchantable as well as reducing the stand's health, vigor, and resistance to insects and disease. If the stand is not thinned, density-dependent mortality can take place along with inter-specific competition for limited resources such as water and light. Stands will be thinned to a 14 foot spacing of approximately 222 trees per acre so that the next entry can be a commercial thin at 40-50 years of age. Pine stands may be thinned to a lower density of approximately 170 trees per acre to meet wildlife, structure, and silvicultural objectives. It is estimated that 200 to 300 acres of pre-commercial thinning can be maintained each year for the next 10 years to achieve the appropriate stocking levels for the young stands on the District.

Our PCT needs are being met through ARRA grant funding this year. While not the same as traditional PCT work, about 200 acres will be in the younger age class. The spacing is a bit wider than usual at 16 feet, trees are pruned and the cut trees are piled and burned.

## **Pruning**

Pruning the lower branches of trees when they are in the pole to young timber sizes (4-11" DBH) increases the value of the first log. Trimming the lower branches- especially the dead ones- also removes the ladder fuels and limits the potential for fires to climb from the ground to the tree canopy.

Pruning will be accomplished on 1,424 acres as part of the prescription in the ARRA fuels contracts. All conifers in these stands will be pruned up to 10 feet while retaining at least 33% of the live crowns of the smaller trees.

## **Fuels Management**

Fuels management has the added advantages of silvicultural and wildlife benefits. The younger stands will benefit from fuels management as they would in a PCT treatment by reducing moisture stress. The fuels management units are being thinned and pruned and piles are being burned. This work is being done in all size classes of stands but primarily where understory vegetation is a thick mixture of hardwoods and conifer. These stands before thinning are usually bumping up against their absolute maximum carrying capacity with over 2000 trees per acre in some cases and are reduced to about 380 tpa. Only conifer

8" or less are thinned while conifer up to 10" may be thinned. After the stand is completed it will have gone from a closed in stand to a more open (think understory development) stand.

This year fuels management will occur on 1,424 acres, 200 in younger stands and the remainder in the understory of more advanced stands. Note that these are the same overlapping acres in the PCT, vegetation management, and pruning sections.

See also "Other Integrated Forest Management Activities."

## **Fertilization**

There are no fertilization activities planned for fiscal year 2012.

## Recreation Management

### **Overview of Recreation Management**

There are currently three forest recreation sites located on State Forest land in the Southwest Oregon District. These include Windy Park, London Peak Trailhead, and the Kerby Peak Trail. In addition, a fitness/interpretive arboretum is located at the Grants Pass headquarters and a historic Civilian Conservation Corps building is located at the Central Point headquarters. Recreational use of the forest is currently low and primarily consists of horseback riding, ATV use, hunting, and sightseeing. The district is open to working with volunteers and user groups on recreation needs.

See Table A-5 in the Appendix for summary information concerning Recreation Management.

### **Facilities (Campgrounds, View Points, Trail Heads, etc.)**

The Windy Creek gazebo at Windy Creek Park was disassembled and moved to the GP office headquarters in 2011. At the GP office it will be used for shade and picnicking. It will receive a new roof in 2012 using FAMADA dollars and/or protection dollars. Windy Creek park is still used as a day use area with parking and fire pits.

## **Trails**

There are no planned improvements of trails or trail heads in 2012.

## **Management Activities**

Local hikers use and or maintain the London Peak trail and the Kerby Peak trail. These trails are partially on BLM lands and are a part of the BLM recreation plan. A primitive trailhead exists at Onion Mountain on Forest Service land where a trail follows the ridge to the Onion Mountain parcel. Additional opportunities for public volunteer work to improve or maintain trails and facilities are encouraged by the State Forest staff on district.

## Land Sale and Exchange

The Division of State Lands (DSL) has jurisdiction over the Common School Fund Lands in Southwest Oregon. The district manages 8,100 acres of CSFL lands for the DSL who has proposed to sell some 4000 acres of land to private timber companies, conservancy groups or other interests. The two alternate sales in this sale plan are on parcels that have been proposed for sale in the auctions.

The proposed sale of these lands will have impacts to future planning of sales, ARRA grant expenditures for fuels treatments and future budgets.

The district will not be doing any land exchange planning in fiscal year 2012.

## Other Integrated Forest Management Operations

### **Noxious Weeds**

The district conducts a noxious weed program to control invasive weed species. The program involves identification, eradication and prevention of noxious weeds and their spread. The district inventories and maps noxious weeds, coordinates with the Douglas County Soil and Conservation District and Bureau of Land Management to identify and treat weed species.

In 2009, the SWO district received an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant to control invasive weeds. This grant was extended through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The district is working with a contractor to control noxious weeds. The remaining funds in this grant will be spent in 2012.

In the 2012 AOP approximately 100 acres will be treated, but the effective area is much larger because of the road systems linking these areas and the scattered nature of the plants.

### **Fuels Management**

ODF received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funding for fuels treatment and wildfire risk reduction on State Forests in 2009. This grant continues into fiscal year 2012 with the extension that will be granted in a scope change of the proposal.

Areas at risk for catastrophic wildfires will be treated by cutting small trees and brush, piling, and burning the piles or chipping to thin out the stands and remove ladder fuels. This type of treatment has many benefits to the forest including: lowering wildfire risk, increasing forest productivity, reducing moisture stress on trees, reducing mortality from insects and disease, and improving wildlife habitat. Clearing and chipping or burning brush piles also helps to return the forest back to a more natural ecosystem better able to accommodate smaller fires. Southwest Oregon District will treat approximately 1,424 acres in 2012 through fuels treatments.

Fuels management is a truly integrated practice where pruning, pre-commercial thinning, vegetation management and pile burning all are accomplished as described earlier in the reforestation section.

### **Firewood Cutting Program**

The Southwest Oregon District will continue to issue personal firewood cutting permits in the coming year for areas where it is available.

The public will be notified of firewood cutting permits through the district's telephone recording and posting at the district office. Permits will be issued for 3 week periods, during the months outside the fire season.

A limited number of personal firewood cutting permits will be issued, on a first come-first served basis, with a limit of 5 permits per individual or household within a 12 month period. The permit fee is for 2 cords of firewood. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) does not guarantee the quality or availability of wood when issuing firewood cutting permits.

Designated firewood cutting areas will be marked on the permit map, which excludes active and sold timber sales, recreation sites, and planned operations. Active timber sales will be posted with no firewood cutting signs.

**The ODF is considering a permit fee increase for personal firewood cutting from \$10 to \$20 for two cords.**

The administrative costs to provide personal firewood cutting permits includes: creating permit maps, explaining permit requirements, issuing permits, etc. This cost does not include the firewood sorting during the timber sale, posting firewood areas, and law enforcement.

A permit fee increase to \$20 is still well below costs, but will help ODF offset some of the costs to administer the firewood cutting program and to continue to provide access to firewood. The permit fee for 2 cords of firewood has not changed since 1988.

## Planning (and Information Systems)

The Oregon Department of Forestry uses comprehensive planning and accompanying information and monitoring systems. A long term forest management plan guides the ten year implementation plan. This document explains one year's activity in the implementation plan. The annual operation plan requires two years of preplanning endangered species surveys, starting with NSO surveys and inventory to determine stand structure and timber volumes. Some of the planning operations and tracking systems are described below.

### **Stand Level Inventory and Other Vegetation Inventories**

The stand level inventory monitoring is on hold due to current budget constraints. Approximately 77% of the forest has been inventoried to SLI protocol and the remainder was inventoried throughout the 1990's.

## Fish and Wildlife Surveys

Northern Spotted Owl: NSO surveys are conducted and a biological assessment is written in order to assess the impacts to owls from harvest operations.

**Table 3. Summary of Surveys for Threatened and Endangered Species**

Operation	Species <sup>1</sup> (NSO/MM)	Survey Years <sup>2</sup>	BA <sup>3</sup> Required	Special Considerations
Windy Bear (Quarry Road)	NSO	2008-2011	Yes	
Quines Run (Bull Run)	NSO	2008-2011	Yes	
Cottonwood	NSO	2008-2011	Yes	
Savage Creek	NSO	2008-2011	Yes	

<sup>1</sup> Surveys are conducted according to accepted protocols when habitat for the specific species is determined to be present. NSO – northern spotted owl, MM – marbled murrelet.

<sup>2</sup> Years that surveys have been completed or are planned.

<sup>3</sup> A Biologic Assessment is required for this operation due to the presence of NSO or MM in the vicinity of the operation.

Marbled Murrelet: The Raspberry Mountain parcel is the only State Forests land within the district that is in the range of Murrelets. No new sales are planned in marbled murrelet habitat.

Threatened and Endangered Fish: There are no fish surveys planned for fiscal year 2012. All perennial streams with unknown fish use are treated as fish bearing streams unless they are rendered unsuitable due to the presence of a natural barrier (i.e. high waterfall) or steep gradient (greater than 20%).

## Watershed Assessments

No watershed assessments are planned in the near future.

## Research and Monitoring

Research and monitoring takes many forms on the district. The largest statewide effort is to inventory our stands of timber. SLI data is used to monitor the results of timber sales after harvesting and in conjunction with the more detailed timber cruise prior to harvest. The SLI data has information on snags, down wood, vegetation, and structural attributes that the traditional timber cruise does not measure. The district will continue to monitor the forest through the existing stand level inventory; however, new inventory plots are on hold due to current budget constraints.



A number of other monitoring processes take place in Southwest Oregon:

- Streams are monitored for fish presence and seasonal flows.
- Northern Spotted Owl monitoring surveys are conducted in and around ODF lands.
- An ongoing genetic study is located in the northeast of Windy Creek.
- A snag monitoring project is located at the completed Xroads Combo timber sale.
- A crown closure study is looking at different levels of crown closure at different thinning densities.
- The southwest also has a pilot NSO project to monitor development of a new NSO policy.

Data for these studies is kept in Salem and the Grants Pass office.

### **Other Planning Operations**

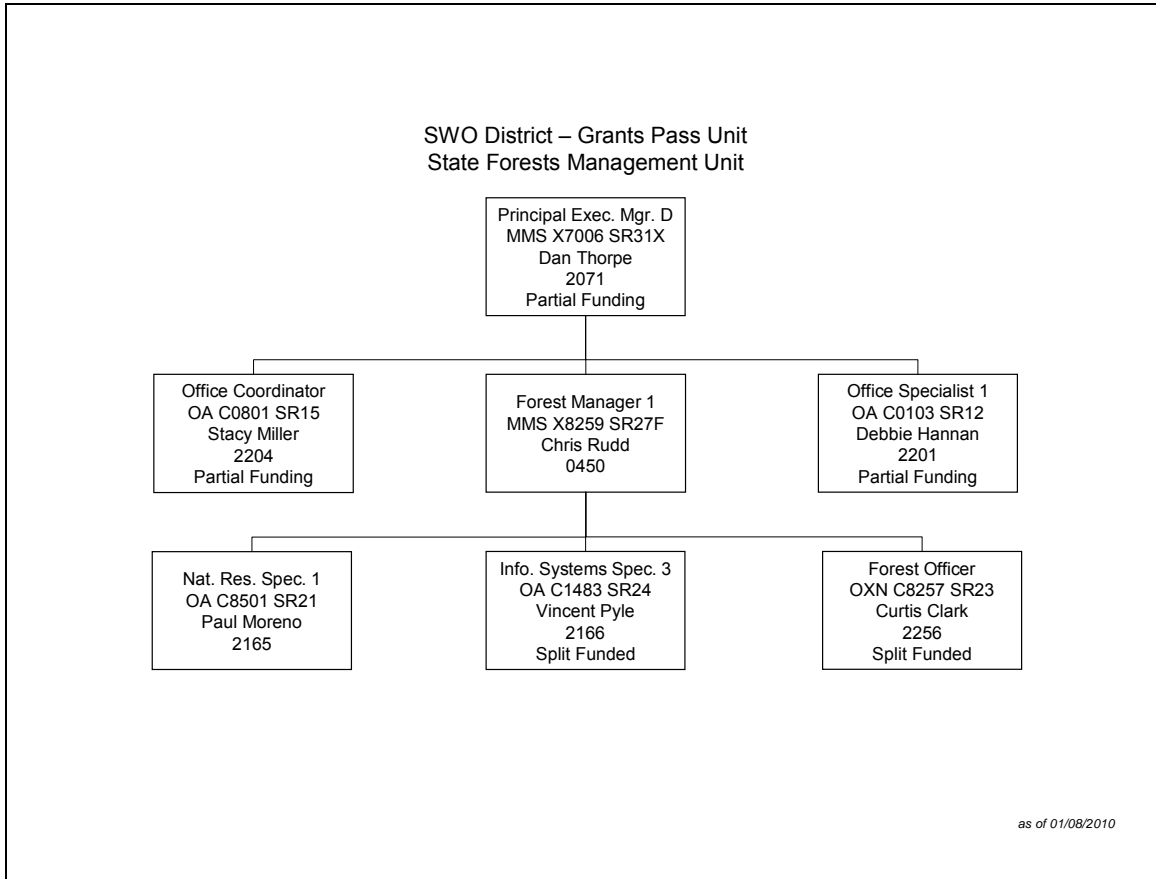
The Southwest Oregon Forest Management Plan was revised in 2010. In the 2012 fiscal year the Implementation Plan for SWO will be revised, however, for this AOP, the previous IP harvest levels are being used. As part of the IP revision process in 2012, the analysis of the outputs from the State Forests harvest model will be conducted to set the harvest objectives for the new IP. In addition, the landscape design and Forest Land Classification maps will be revised and updated.

## Public Information and Education

The State Forests Program is committed to the review of AOP and responding to comments from the public. It is the intent of the Southwest Oregon District to continue to serve the public by addressing their questions and concerns regarding the management of the State's natural resources. The District will continue to participate in college and high school career days. Also, continuing participation in local tree planting activities is anticipated. In addition, requests for presentations or interviews on forest management and fire safety occur periodically and the District will continue to support these interpretive outreach opportunities.

## Administration

The Southwest Oregon District State Forests Unit is staffed by two employees year-round and three employees that share time and funding with the Protection program. The Forest Unit Supervisor (FUS2) and Roads Specialist (NRS1) are fully funded by State Forests. The Information Systems Specialist (ISS3) has district-wide responsibilities and is split-funded by the State Forests and the Protection Program. A Forest Officer is split funded through Protection and State Forests Programs; his winter duties for SF include reforestation and timber sale preparation. Under this organizational structure the district is able to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Southwest Oregon District Implementation Plan – March 2003, and the Southwest Oregon District 2010 Annual Operations Plan, while remaining within budgetary means.



## APPENDIXES

### A. Summary Tables

- A-1 Timber Harvest Operations – Financial Summary
- A-2 Timber Harvest Operations – Forest Structure Summary
- A-3 Forest Roads Summary
- A-4 Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary
- A-5 Recreation Summary
  - No recreation projects are planned for FY 2012: table not included

## **B. Map**

- Vicinity Map of Timber Sales

## **C. Public Involvement**

- Public Process 2012 AOP.

## **D. Pre-Operations Reports**

Available upon request

## 5 ddYbXjl 5 . Summary Tables

### TIMBER HARVEST OPERATIONS - FINANCIAL SUMMARY

District: Southwest OR

Fiscal Year: 2012

Date: 03/08/11

Primary Operation	Fund %		County	Sale Quarter	Net Acres		Volume (MMBF)			Value			
	BOF	CSL			Partial Cut	Clear-cut	Conifer	Hard-woods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net	
WINDY BEAR	100%	0%	Douglas	3rd	134	15	0.7	0.1	0.8	\$129,500	\$23,000	\$106,500	
QUINES RUN	0%	100%	Douglas	4th	108	30	1.9	0.1	2.0	\$331,800	\$26,000	\$305,800	
					<b>Total:</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>\$461,300</b>	<b>\$49,000</b>	<b>\$412,300</b>

**Alternate Operations**

COTTONWOOD		100%	Jackson	4th	92		0.784		0.8	\$137,200	\$20,000	\$117,200	
SAVAGE CREEK TH		100%	Josephine	3rd	70		0.371	0	0.4	\$64,925	\$19,000	\$45,925	
					<b>Total:</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>\$202,125</b>	<b>\$39,000</b>	<b>\$163,125</b>

## TIMBER HARVEST OPERATIONS - FOREST STRUCTURE SUMMARY

District: Southwest OR

Fiscal Year 2012

Date: 03/08/2011

### PRIMARY

Current Structure		Post Harvest Structure					Desired Future Condition		
	Total	REG	CSC	UDS	LYR	OFS	GEN	LYR	OFS
REG									
CSC	213	30	79	104			109	61	43
UDS	74			74			46	28	
LYR									
OFS									
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>43</b>

### ALTERNATE

Current Structure		Post Harvest Structure					Desired Future Condition		
	Total	REG	CSC	UDS	LYR	OFS	GEN	LYR	OFS
REG									
CSC	162			92	70			12	150
UDS									
LYR									
OFS									
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>150</b>

## FOREST ROADS SUMMARY

District: Southwest OR

Fiscal Year: 2012

Date: 3/8/11

Operation	Construction		Improvement		Other Projects	Total Project Costs	Gross Value of Operation	Total Cost as a percent of Gross Value	Comments
	Miles	Cost	Miles	Cost					
WINDY BEAR	0.6	\$21,000	0.9	\$2,000	\$0	\$23,000	\$129,500	17.8%	
QUINES RUN	1.0	\$25,000	0.3	\$1,000		\$26,000	\$331,800	7.8%	
<b>ALTERNATES</b>									
COTTONWOOD	0.8	\$18,500	0.5	\$1,500		\$20,000	\$137,200	14.6%	
SAVAGE CR THIN	0.5	\$17,500	0.5	\$1,500		\$19,000	\$64,925	29.3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>\$82,000</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$88,000</b>	<b>\$663,425</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	

### Alternate Operations

						\$0	1	0.0%	
						\$0	1	0.0%	
						\$0	1	0.0%	

### Road Projects Not Funded by Harvest Operations

Operation	Construction Miles	Construction Cost	Improvement Miles	Improvement Cost	Other Projects	Total Project	Funding	Comments
						\$0		
						\$0		
						\$0		
						\$0		
						\$0		
						\$0		

## REFORESTATION AND YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District: Southwest OR

Fiscal Year: 2012

Date: 03/08/2011

ODF Funded Activities	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District	
Management Activity	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	BOF Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	CSL Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost
Initial Planting- NWW, Perk, Wood South, Raspb	80	\$100.00	\$8,000.00	34	\$100.00	\$3,400.00	114	\$11,400.00
Interplanting			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Underplanting			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection-Barriers			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tree Protection-Direct Control (BGR, tubes, traps)	50	\$10.00	\$500.00	34	\$12.00	\$408.00	84	\$908.00
Site Prep-Chemical- Aerial			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Site Prep-Chemical- (H/S, Quines, Wndy Br, Rasp)	50	\$114.00	\$5,700.00	34	\$115.00	\$3,910.00	84	\$9,610.00
Site Prep -Slash Burning (BCC, Perkins)	50	\$100.00	\$5,000.00			\$0.00	50	\$5,000.00
Site Prep -Mechanical			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Fertilization			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Noxious weeds			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release-Chemical- Aerial			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release,-Chemical-Hand			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Release-Mechanical-Hand			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Precommercial Thinning			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Pruning			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Other			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$19,200.00</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$7,718.00</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>\$26,918.00</b>

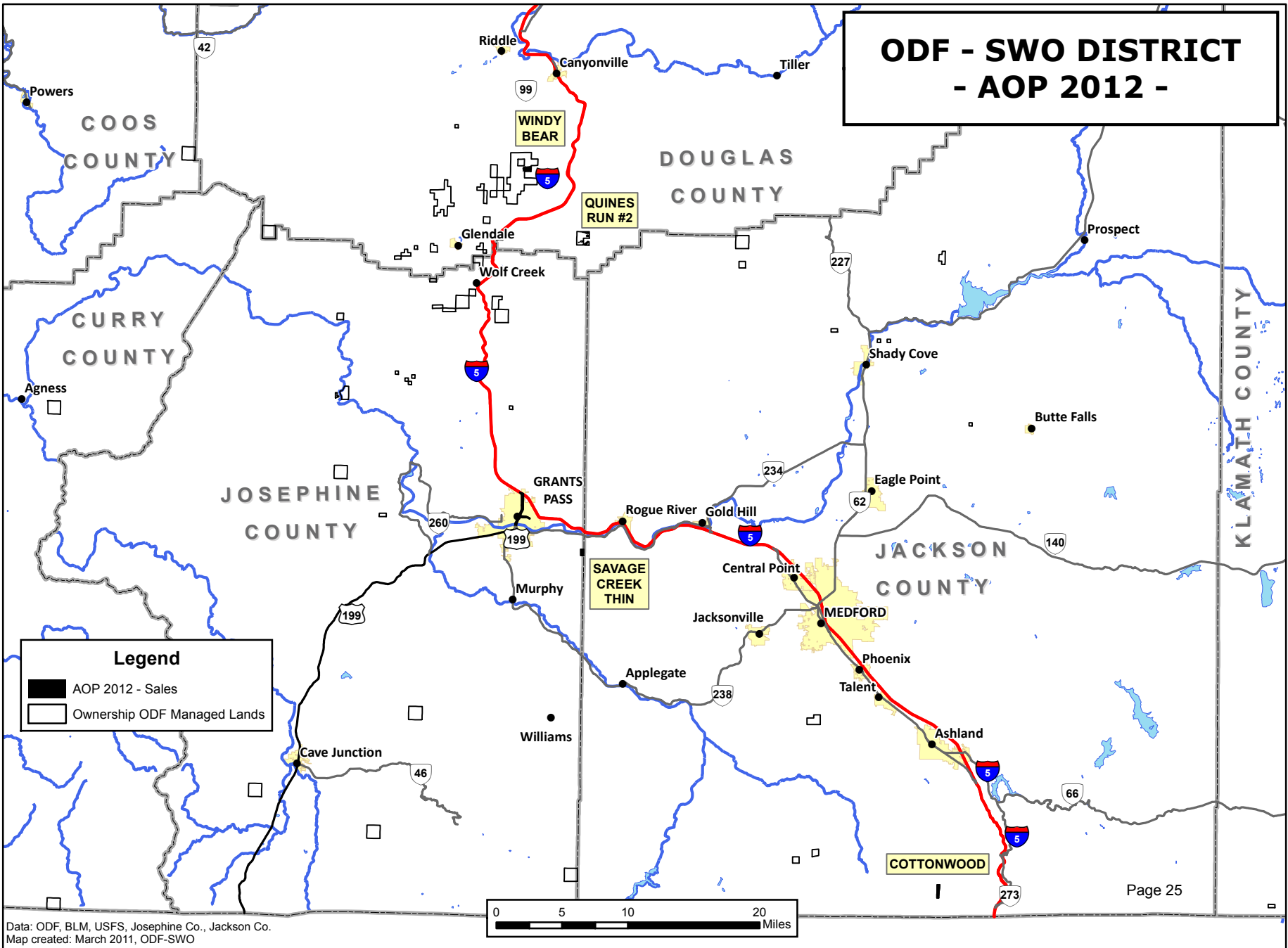
\*Planting costs include all costs including seedlings

Grant Funded Activities	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District		Funding
Management Activity	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost	
Cut/Pile/Burn- Fuels Reduction	800	\$500.00	\$400,000.00	137	\$500.00	\$68,500.00	937	\$468,500.00	ARRA
Foliar/hack/basal - Fuels Reduce	350	\$99.00	\$34,650.00	137	\$99.00	\$13,563.00	487	\$48,213.00	ARRA
Noxious Weeds	100	\$99.00	\$9,900.00			\$0.00	100	\$9,900.00	ARRA
			\$0.00			\$0.00	0	\$0.00	



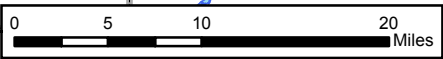
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# ODF - SWO DISTRICT - AOP 2012 -



### Legend

- AOP 2012 - Sales
- Ownership ODF Managed Lands



**-Appendix C-**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS FOR  
THE 2012 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN**

The Oregon Department of Forestry provided a formal 45 day public comment period for the 2012 Annual Operations Plans from April 11<sup>th</sup> to May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The purpose of the Public Comment Period was to provide an opportunity for the public to review the AOP's, ask questions, make recommendations, and offer comments. As a public agency, ODF operates in the best interest of Oregonians conducting business in an open way with opportunities for scrutiny to foster and maintain public confidence that ODF operations are benefiting Oregonians.

Past experience has shown that public comments have the potential to improve plans, so the objective was not only to inform the public, but to receive feedback that would help to clarify the AOP's, improve their consistency with the long range FMPs and IPs, and to become aware of any new information that could affect a planned operation or improve its efficiency or effectiveness.

The Southwest Oregon District did not receive any public comments on the 2012 AOP.

The State Forest Advisory Committee (SFAC) reviewed the Southwest Oregon District FY12 AOP and had no specific comments.

Note: A complete list of all comments and the responses for other districts related to the FY12 AOP can be found on our web site:

[http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE\\_FORESTS/2012\\_AOP\\_Approved.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/2012_AOP_Approved.shtml)