



File Code: 2430

Date: June 24, 2022

Dear Timber Industry Partner:

The Pacific Northwest Region continues to recover from impacts of the 2020 and 2021 wildfire seasons and will soon begin restoration work funded under the Disaster Relief Bill. In addition, the Chief of the Forest Service has announced a new strategy for confronting the national wildfire crisis that focuses on dramatically increasing the number of acres treated, in targeted landscapes over the next 10 years.

Delays in delivery of the timber program, including litigation and wildfire impacts, have caused significant reductions in timber volume sold in the last two years and continue to affect the Region's productivity. Reliable and consistent delivery of forest products remains a priority for the Regional Forester as well as the Deschutes and Ochoco Forest Leadership.

In order to ensure the consistent delivery of forest products, the Regional Forester is working with all forests to establish a reliable base timber program for timber management; this will be accomplished by establishing a minimum of three years of completed NEPA project decisions (shelf stock) and one year of timber sale prep stock. This shift within the Region begins in our current fiscal year and will continue for the next one to two years. The Region will offer as much timber volume for sale in fiscal year 2022 as possible while it continues to rebuild with a steady increase of 650-700 MMBF by fiscal year 2026.


The Region has determined the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forest's timber targets will be reduced over the next five years to ensure a minimum of three years NEPA shelf stock and one year timber sale prep stock. Fiscal year 2022 timber target for the Deschutes National Forest will be 25 MMBF and 11 MMBF for the Ochoco National Forest. We are coordinating with neighboring forests to balance timber targets to ensure continued support of local economies through sustainable levels of forest product delivery. Industry partners will also see a shift towards more Integrated Resource Service Contracts (IRSC) in response to both the Regional strategy and new funding associated with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, allowing for commercial product removal and the reduction of hazardous fuels in a shorter timeframe to increase landscape resiliency.

We have begun these conversations with local elected officials and industry partners and would like to schedule some time to have additional conversations about these changes. We will send information out for that meeting in the coming weeks.




Please review the attached Periodic Timber Sale Announcements for the Deschutes and Ochoco for the tentative program from April to October 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Lowe, Timber Contracting Officer at amy.e.lowe@usda.gov or 541-383-5590 or 541-416-6587.

Sincerely,

 Digitally signed by
Anthony B Botello
Date: 2022.06.22
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ANTHONY B. BOTELLO
Acting Forest Supervisor
Ochoco National Forest

 Digitally signed by
HOLLY JEWKES
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HOLLY JEWKES
Forest Supervisor
Deschutes National Forest

Enclosures (2)