

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

S
PLANS - Umatilla
Timber Management
Elgin Block, La Grande Working Circle

Pendleton, Oregon

August 11, 1948

TIMBER DISPOSAL PLAN
ELGIN BLOCK, LA GRANDE WORKING CIRCLE

Approved:

Carl Ewing
Forest Supervisor

Regional Forester

(Date)

R.O.
Whitman
Umatilla
Walla Walla R.D.
Pendleton R.D.
G.J.

Prepared by:

/s/ Glen Jorgensen
Forester

TIMBER DISPOSAL PLAN

ELGIN BLOCK, LA GRANDE WORKING CIRCLE

SUMMARY FOR ELGIN BLOCK, LA GRANDE WORKING CIRCLE

NATIONAL FOREST LANDS ONLY

Total Gross Acreage	=	83,373 acres
Total Net Available Operable Acreage	=	75,595 acres
Total Gross Volume All Species	=	490,136 M.B.M.
Total Net Available Operable Volume		

Ponderosa pine	67,220 M.B.M.
Douglas fir	76,923 M.B.M.
Western larch	101,849 M.B.M.
White fir	195,176 M.B.M.
White pine	3,440 M.B.M.
Engelmann spruce	30,090 M.B.M.
Others	3,409 M.B.M.
Total	<u>478,107 M.B.M.</u>

First Cutting Cycle – 45 years – ending in 1985

Per cent of stand removed = 60%

Allowable Annual Cut – First Cutting Cycle:

Ponderosa pine	.896 M.B.M.
Associated species	<u>5.478 M.B.M.</u>
Total	6.374 M.B.M.

TIMBER DISPOSAL PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL FOREST RESOURCES OF THE ELGIN BLOCK IN THE LA GRANDE WORKING CIRCLE

I. Introduction

The Elgin Block is a part of the La Grande Working Circle. Since all of this block is located in the Umatilla National Forest, the timber disposal plan is being prepared separately, although coordinated with the overall working circle disposal plan. Most of this block is located in the Walla Walla Ranger District and includes the Jarbeau, Mottet, and Lookingglass Creek drainages. The Phillips Creek drainage, an area of approximately one township, is in the Pendleton Ranger District.

Only 50 M.B.F. of national forest timber has been cut in the block. This cutting has been mostly in the form of S-22 sales for wood, posts, poles, and miscellaneous forest products.

We have made no commitments for the disposal of any national forest timber in this block, other than for land exchange purposes. The Regional Forester, in a meeting with officials of Mt. Emily Lumber Company in 1946, agreed to make available annually for several years from the resources of the working circle 3 million feet of pine on a sale basis and 2 million feet on a land exchange basis. At the time this commitment was made, the allowable annual cut of ponderosa pine for the La Grande working circle was calculated at 4.2 million feet a year. Since the full allowable cut of ponderosa pine is currently being made in the Limber Jim and Sheep Creek areas of the Whitman Forest, no sales of national forest timber will be made in the Elgin Block, until these operations have been completed.

The following mills are now located in and adjacent to the Elgin block:

	Annual Capacity	Location
Hanford Reed	5 million	Elgin, Oregon
Jack Eckstine	1 million	Elgin, Oregon
Junior Lumber Co.	1 million	Elgin, Oregon
Kennedy and Culp	0.7 million	Elgin, Oregon
Culp	0.5 million	Elgin, Oregon
Myron K. Flesor	3 million	Minam, Oregon

None of these mills has sufficient private timber to insure a sustained life. The expected life of the mills operating entirely on private timber is:

Hanford Reed	10 years - plus
Jack Eckstine	10 years
Junior Lumber Co.	6 years
Kennedy and Culp	4 years
Culp	5 years

Myron K. Flesor

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The Reed and Flesor mills have in the past obtained a large part of their cut on private land in the Minam River area. The Reed mill has also secured timber on private land in the Indian and Clark Creek drainages of the Cove Block. The Reed mill owns approximately 20 million feet of timber in the Minam area and it is expected that they will be cutting in this area for the next five years or longer.

Myron K. Flesor is building an access road from Palmer Junction to the Fry Meadow area of the Elgin Block where he controls approximately 10 million feet of timber owned by L.E. Pearson and Culver Marshall. Logging operations in this area are planned for 1948.

In addition to the above mills there is a remanufacturing plant located in Elgin known as the Ponderosa Pine Lumber Company. This company is a subsidiary of the Ralph Smith Lumber Company of Kansas City. The remanufacturing operations of this plant are highly refined and comprise a substantial part of the industrial payroll of the Elgin community.

The operation started in 1925 as a planer mill doing custom work for local mills. In 1928 additional equipment was added and the company produced molding, boxes, and lumber. The entire plant burned in 1930 and was rebuilt in 1931 during the depth of the depression. The operation grew progressively until 1938 when over 100 people were employed yearlong in the remanufacturing of approximately one million feet of lumber monthly. During the past decade the plant has continued to increase its capacity and now employs approximately 150 people.

The company has a marketing agreement with the Hanford Reed, Kennedy and Culp, and Culp sawmills of Elgin, which insures a constant market for the output of these small mills. In addition to the lumber supplied by them, the company receives lumber for remanufacturing from company plants located at Wallowa and Joseph. It is understood that the Ralph Smith Lumber Company mill located at Izee, Oregon, also ships at least a part of its cut to Elgin for remanufacturing.

II. Management Objectives

The overall objective of management for the working circle for the next 5-year period is to acquire the Mt. Emily Lumber Company lands with a residual stand. It will require the full allowable annual cut of ponderosa pine and a part of the cut of associated species of the working circle to realize this objective. It is estimated that it will require more than five years and possibly eight years to acquire all of the Mt. Emily Lumber Company lands.

The objective for the Elgin Block is to consummate small exchanges within the block in order to consolidate national forest ownership, and to obtain good cutting practices on private land.

Preliminary negotiations have been completed for the acquisition of the Culver Marshall track of 640 acres located in the Sheep Creek drainage. The Forest Service will mark the residual stand on the private tract. When the marking and cruising work is completed, a land exchange agreement will be executed. Cutting rights are to be granted in the Sheep Creek area on the basis of equal values. National forest stumpage will be allowed for the value of the residual timber and land.

Mr. Ben Eales has offered to exchange 640 acres of land and virgin timber in Phillips Creek for cutting rights in the Sheep Creek area. National forest timber will be granted on the basis of pine for pine, associated species for associated species, and stumpage of all species for the value of the offered land. As yet no cruising or appraised work has been undertaken.

Both Mr. Marshall and Mr. Eales plan to assign their cutting rights to the Flesor mill at Minam.

The Blue Mountain Prune Growers have offered to exchange 640 acres of land and virgin timber in the Mottet area for \$5000 worth of national forest stumpage. The proposed selection area will be in the Bald Mountain area (Elgin Block) adjoining a proposed company sale area in the Walla Walla Working Circle. There will be no ponderosa pine involved in this exchange. Cutting rights of associated species will be granted for the value of the offered land and timber.

Whenever possible, other tracts of privately owned land located within the working circle and within our present exchange authority will be acquired as opportunity affords under tripartite exchange procedure.

The following is a summary of the proposed land exchange program in the Elgin Block:

Land Ownership	Acreage	Condition	M.B.M.		N.F. Selection Timber To Be Granted	
			P.P.	Other	P.P.	Other
Culver Marshall	640	Selective Cut	114	952	114	1,272
Ben Eales	640	Virgin	1,135	2,128	1,135	2,448
Blue Mtn. Prune Growers	640	Virgin	—	4,747	—	2,000
Total	1,290		1,249	7,827	1,249	5,720

No sales, except for exchange purposes, will be made within the Elgin Block until all exchange commitments within the La Grande Working Circle have been fulfilled. The Mt. Emily Lumber Company operation is on a liquidation basis; the company is exchanging most of its holdings for national forest cutting rights. After the company land is cut and all cutting rights have been exercised, the Mt. Emily Lumber Company will be largely dependent upon national forest stumpage. Sales will then be made in the Elgin and other blocks. Such sales should be in line with established regional policy and commitments, and be mutually satisfactory to both forests. The allowable annual cut for the working circle will be too small to support both the Mt. Emily Lumber

Company and Pondosa Pine Lumber Company of Elgin. Which of these qualified operations will survive should be determined by competitive bid procedure.

III. Analysis of National Forest Resources

A colored Forest Survey type map on a 1"-to-the-mile scale is a part of this plan (note that no map was included with this copy of the report). On this map are shown the working circle and block boundaries, forest types on national forest lands within the working circle, and the location of alienated lands within the national forest boundary.

None of the area in the Elgin block is considered inoperable. Many areas were considered operable in this plan that could not be operated under present standards but it is believed that before the end of the cutting cycle these will be economically accessible.

A deduction is made for "non-typed inoperable" representing 2% of the type areas and 2% of the gross timber volumes, the total deduction amounting to 1,552 acres and supporting a timber volume of 9,797 M.B.F. Considering that no allowance was made for inoperable areas in this plan, it is believed that a flat deduction of 2% in volume is appropriate.

A deduction of 506 acres supporting 2,214 M.B.F. of operable timber is made for recreation reservations. These reservations are made for roadside strips, streamside protection, and campground areas both existing and proposed. Roads in the block that are considered recreation roads are the Mt. Emily-Tollgate, Tollgate-Troy, Weston-Elgin Highway, and the Mottet Meadows road.

Fishing streams in the block that will be given protection by leaving a streamside screen are: Jarbeau Creek, Little Lookingglass, Mottet Creek, Lookingglass Creek, and Eagle Creek.

The Spout Springs ski area is located in the Elgin Block. No deduction was made for timber reservations for the ski area since it is generally considered that logging will improve skiing conditions. Adequate protection, however, will be given to the roadside strip and the buffer areas surrounding the ski lodge to provide as near natural conditions as possible.

Since the forest recreation plan has not yet been prepared, information from the rangers and the staff assistant in charge of recreation was used to determine recreation deductions. As soon as the recreation plan is available for the forest, this timber management plan should be revised as necessary to conform with recreational needs thus disclosed.

Tables follow which show:

1. Summary of drain from 1937 to 1948.

2. Summary of volume by species in the block.
3. Summary of acreage by forest types in the block.

UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST SUMMARY OF DRAIN
LA GRANDE WORKING CIRCLE
M.B.M.

Current as of 1/1/48

Elgin Block (if significant - otherwise for entire W.C.)										
Species	*Block or W.C. Total	Non-Available		Available		Deductions Applicable to Avail. Oper.			Total Ded.	**Net Available Operable
		Dedi-cated	Limited	Non-Operable	Operable	Rec. Res.	Non-typed Inoper.	Other (Specify)		
								Drain		
(a) P.P.	68,542							0		68,542
(b) P.P.	187							0		187
D.F.	78,884							8		78,876
W.L.	104,471							8		104,463
W.F.	200,123							0		200,123
W.P.	3,510							0		3,510
E.S.	30,987							30		30,957
Others	3,482							4		3,478
Totals	490,186							50		490,136
Percent	100									

Basic data: Forest Survey, current as of 1/1/37
 Corrected for depletion to 1/1/48
 Corrected for acquisition to 1/1/48
 Other Corrections, if any

Compiled: May 11, 1948
 By: Glen Jorgensen

*Inventory as of 1937

**Inventory as of 1/1/48

(a) = Uncut Mature

(b) = Residual on type 21

UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST SUMMARY OF VOLUMES
LA GRANDE WORKING CIRCLE
M.B.M.

Current as of 1/1/48

Species	Elgin Block (if significant - otherwise for entire W.C.)									
	Block or W.C. Total	Non-Available		Available		Deductions Applicable to Avail. Oper.			Total Ded.	Net Available Operable
		Dedi- cated	Limited	Non- Operable	Operable	Rec. Res.	Non- typed Inoper.	Other (Specify)		
(a) P.P.	68,542				68,542	120	1,371	Type 5-1/2 18	1,509	67,033
(b) P.P.	187				187					187
D.F.	78,876				78,876	376	1,577		1,953	76,923
W.L.	104,463				104,463	525	2,089		2,614	101,849
W.F.	200,123				200,123	945	4,002		4,947	195,176
W.P.	3,510				3,510		70		70	3,440
E.S.	30,957				30,957	348	619		867	30,090
Others	3,478				3,478		69		69	3,409
Totals	490,136				490,136	2,214	9,797	18	12,029	478,107
Percent	100				100					

Basic data: Forest Survey, current as of 1/1/48
 Corrected for depletion to 1/1/48
 Corrected for acquisition to 1/1/48
 Other Corrections, if any

Compiled: May 11, 1948
 By: Glen Jorgensen

(a) = Uncut Mature
 (b) = Residual on type 21

UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST SUMMARY OF TYPE AREAS
LA GRANDE WORKING CIRCLE
Acres

Current as of 1/1/48

Species	Elgin Block (if significant - otherwise for entire W.C.)									
	Block or W.C. Total	Non-Available		Available		Deductions Applicable to Avail. Oper.			Total Ded.	Net Available Operable
		Dedicated	Limited	Non-Operable	Operable	Rec. Res.	Non-typed Inoper.	Other (Specify)		
1, 2, 38	5,705			5,705	0			Type 5-1/2		0
5-1/2	15				15				15	0
8	515				515	12	10	15	22	493
20	10,290				10,290	48	205		253	10,037
21	85				85		2		2	83
22	10				10					10
25	2,870				2,870	78	57		135	2,735
27	47,630				47,630	241	953		1,194	46,436
28	16,253				16,253	127	325		452	15,801
Totals	83,373			5,705	77,668	506	1,552	15	2,073	75,595

Basic data:

Forest Survey, current as of
Corrected for depletion to
Corrected for acquisition to
Other Corrections, if any

1/1/48
1/1/48
1/1/48

Compiled: May 10, 1948
By: Glen Jorgensen

IV. Calculation of Allowable Annual Cut

Ponderosa Pine

Net available operable = 67,220 M.B.F.

Cutting cycle started in 1941 and ends in 1985

Length of cutting cycle = 45 years

Per cent of stand removed = 60%

Cut at the rate of 1-1/3% per annum

Allowable annual cut for ponderosa pine = .896 million

Associated Species

Net available operable = 410,887 M.B.F.

Cut at the rate of 1-1/3% per annum

Allowable annual cut = 5.478 million

Summary of Allowable Annual Cut

Ponderosa pine	.896 million
Associated species	<u>5.478 million</u>
	6.374 million

V. Sale Program

During the next five-year period it is not anticipated to make any sales in the Elgin Block, since the full allowable cut for the working circle is being cut in the East and West Starkey Blocks.

All cutting in the block will be limited to the cutting of selection timber under land exchange agreements. The Culver Marshall exchange case should be consummated this year. It is estimated that it will require 114 M.B.F. of ponderosa pine and 1,272 M.B.F. of other species to satisfy this exchange. Selection timber will be cut in 1949 on Sections 15 and 21, T.4 N., R. 40 E., W.M., on national forest land adjoining the offered land.

The Eales exchange case will probably be consummated early in 1949. The cutting of selection timber should also be completed in 1949. It is proposed to make the selection area for this case in the same vicinity as the selection area for the Marshall exchange. The location of the offered and selected lands and the road system necessary to serve the area is shown on the attached one-half-inch map (note that no map was included with this copy of the report).

It is not expected that negotiations for exchange with the Blue Mountain Prune Growers of Milton will be completed in time to permit cutting of selection timber before 1950. Approximately 2 million feet of associated species will be cut in the Bald Mountain area to satisfy this exchange. Location of offered and selected lands and the road system necessary to serve the tract is shown on the attached sale program map (note that no map was included with this copy of the report).

Additional exchanges may be consummated during the next five-year period. Preliminary negotiations indicate a possibility of acquiring the L.E. Pearson 160-acre tract in Phillips Creek on a tripartite basis. Mr. Pearson stated that he would sign an informal offer for a consideration of \$5 per acre. Sales will be made if needed in the Elgin Block to satisfy this and other small tripartite cases located in the La Grande working circle.

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CUTTING BUDGET FOR ELGIN BLOCK

1948 to 1952 incl.

Allowable Annual Cut for Block 6.4 MM

Block	Name or Description of Sale Areas or Units	Map Number	Estimated Volumes to be Cut										Totals	
			1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		Pine	Other
			PP	Other	PP	Other	PP	Other	PP	Other	PP	Other		
Elgin	Marshall Exchange	1		-	.1	1.2							.1	1.2
Elgin	Eales Exchange	2			1.1	2.4							1.1	2.4
Elgin	Blue Mountain Prune Growers Exchange	3					2.0							2.0
Elgin	Small exchanges						1.0		1.0		1.0			3.0
TOTALS					1.2	3.6	3.0		1.0		1.0		1.2	8.6