



United States Department of Agriculture

Program of Work 2019

Pacific Northwest Region 6
Malheur National Forest



Forest Service

May 2019

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2018 Forest Statistics and Accomplishments Summary

TOTAL FOREST ACRES 1.7 Million Acres

FOREST LEADERSHIP TEAM

Forest Supervisor	Steve Beverlin
Deputy Forest Supervisor	Leisa Cook
Administrative Program Specialist	Lisa Galbreath
Blue Mountain District Ranger	Bob Foxworth
Prairie City Ranger District	Ed Guzman
Emigrant Creek Ranger District	Greta Smith (Acting)
Fire and Aviation Management	Ron Simpson
Vegetation Management	Gerald Dixon
Planning and Natural Resources	Amy Unthank
Budget & Administration	Judy Morgan
Recreation, Engineering, Lands and Minerals	Mike Montgomery
Public Affairs Officer	Marc Strong (Acting)
Health and Safety	Lisa Rynearson
Law Enforcement Officer	John Soules

TIMBER OUTPUTS

Timber Awarded:	45.98 MMBF
Timber Harvested:	44.66 MMBF
*MMBF - Million Board Feet Offered	73.95 MMBF

RESTORATION

Precommercial thinning	5,440 acres
820 acres for the 10-Year Stewardship	
• 4,900 acres within the CFLRP boundary	
Reforestation surveys	7,900 acres
Stand exam contract	5,457 acres of stands sampled using 1,015 plots
Project areas sampled with stand exams	109,782 acres (Crow & Austin)
Commercial thinning	7,600 acres awarded

BOTANY

Invasive Plant Species Treated	3,665 acres
Treatments Monitored	986 acres
Rare Plants Surveyed	4,000 acres*
New Rare Plant Sites	15
Revegetation	230 acres
seeded, 130 acres planted with riparian shrub seedlings or cuttings	
*reduced workforce from 2017	

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Number of Grazing Permits	99
Sheep Allotments	2
Cattle Allotments	105
AUM's Cattle Permitted	145,184
AUM's Sheep Permitted	7,528
AUM's Horse Permitted	222
Wildhorse Territory	1

AQUATICS AND WILDLIFE

Fish Habitat Restored	74 miles of stream
Wildlife Habitat Restored	27,824 acres
Stream Inventory	80 miles of stream
Soil/Water Habitat Improved	11,768 acres
Lake Habitat Restored	509 acres

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Hazardous fuels treated	46,162 acres
Underburning	9,598 acres
Number of lightning caused wildfires	30
Acres Affected	61.65 acres
Number of human caused wildfires	14
Acres Affected	85.31 acres

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS

National Forest System Roads	9,637 miles Road Maintenance
	975 miles

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Campgrounds	35
Cabin Rentals	5
Trailheads (developed)	49
Miles of Hiking Trails	286
Miles Snowmobile Trails	549
Sledding Hill	1
Boating	3
Viewpoints	2
Interpretive Sites	6

HERITAGE

Total number of recorded sites	5,251
Total number of acres surveys	1,257,643
Sites monitored	75
Permanent monitoring sites established	0
Projects monitored	10
Project acres monitored	500
New sites recorded	20
Field surveys	5
New acres surveyed	3,000
Passport In Time volunteer (PIT) projects	0
Number of volunteers	1
Volunteer days of work	110

Protecting Sacred Site

Program Area: Cultural Resources and Heritage Program

Project Contact: Allen Madril – Umatilla NF, 541-278-3719, amadril@fs.fed.us
Sarah Crump – Wallowa Whitman NF, 541-523-1249, scrump@fs.fed.us
Don Hann – Malheur NF, 541-575- 3081, dhann@fs.fed.us

CTUIR Board members have expressed concern with the lack of a clear policy and process to manage and protect sacred sites on Forest Service lands. The National effort to address this issue has slowed down and the CTUIR and local Forests believe that sacred sites protection is too important to wait for National consensus. We agreed to have technical discussions between the CTUIR Cultural Resources Committee and Staff and the respective Forest Heritage Program Managers to develop an appropriate process.

Current Status: CTUIR Cultural Resources Protection Program and Forest Service archaeologists met on September 19, 2017, to discuss sacred sites and Historic Properties of Religious and Cultural Significance to Tribes. At the meeting, the Forest Service archaeologists tentatively agreed to the following:

- Consider the locations identified in the CTUIR's Place Names Atlas (Hunn et al. 2015) as HPRCSTs.
 - Fill out site forms for these resources during cultural resource inventories which include these locations.
 - These will generally remain unevaluated for listing on the National Register and so managed as potentially eligible.
 - The tribe can provide shapefile boundaries for these resources as required.
- Insert HPRCST into the cultural resource section of the Blue Mountains Forest Plan.
 - Will not trigger additional analysis- simply clarifies that these are a type of cultural resource that are managed under the NHPA.
 - Document Spring Mountain on UMA as a HPRCST on a site form and submit to the Oregon SHPO following standard processes.

Definitions: The following definitions and confidentiality discussion from the National Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Indian Sacred Sites and related documents may be useful as a starting point for developing a locally relevant sacred sites policy.

Executive Order 13007 of May 24, 1996 defines a sacred site as:

any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site.

This definition was retained in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Indian Sacred Sites (effective December 4, 2012) with some important additions:

Such sacred sites may also be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes.

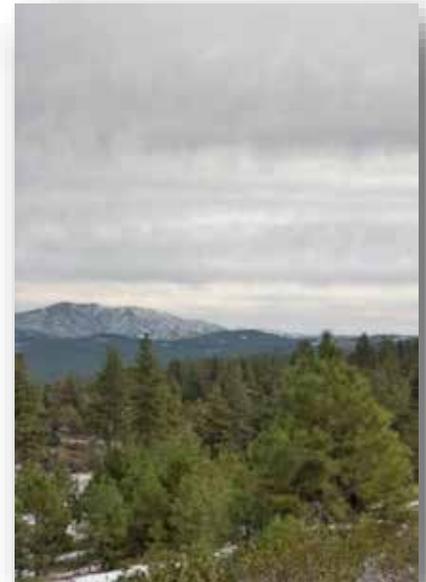
Sacred sites often occur within a larger landform or are connected through features or ceremonies to other sites or a larger sacred landscape. Agencies should consider these broader areas and connections to better understand the context and significance of sacred sites. Sacred sites may include, but are not limited to geological features, bodies of water, archaeological sites, burial locations, traditional cultural properties, and stone and earth structures.

This at least partially addresses a couple issues brought forward by the CTUIR and other American Indian tribes during the National “listening sessions”:

- For sacred sites where listing on the National Register of Historic Places is appropriate they are potentially eligible as historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes. This provides the clearest and most enforceable legal protection to the sites but may conflict with CTUIR members need to limit the dissemination of sacred information.
- “Sacredness” is often difficult, if not impossible, to limit to “specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location{s}” as called for in the definition provided by Executive Order 13007. The 2012 MOU recognizes this complexity by noting that specific sacred *sites* are often components of larger sacred *landscapes*.

Confidentiality of information about sacred sites provided by the CTUIR to the Forest Service is an important concern. The Policy Statement on the Confidentiality of Information about Indian Sacred Sites dated July 2015 offers guidance to Federal Agencies on how to approach this issue:

- When consulting with tribes to determine whether culturally sensitive locations may be affected by federal actions, federal agencies shall respect tribal desires to keep information about such locations confidential to the extent legally possible. Many tribes cannot disclose, for cultural reasons, information about the location, the significance, and even the existence of traditional religious and cultural properties and places. Federal agencies must respect and recognize tribal ownership of information.
- Agencies should seek to preclude, to the greatest extent possible, the possibility that disclosure of sensitive information may be required by the Freedom of Information Act or other authority. To that end, agencies and their contractors should request and record only that information about sacred sites that is absolutely necessary to support required administrative decisions.



If a sacred site is determined to be an historic resource or an archaeological resource, then the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) may offer some protection of information. If, however, neither ARPA nor the NHPA apply, federal agencies may find it impossible to keep information about a sacred site confidential, and should so advise the Tribe or religious leader prior to requesting sensitive information.

For more information, please visit the Forest Service-Tribal Relations: Sacred Sites webpage: <https://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/sacredsites.shtml>.

Restoring First Foods

Leadership of the Malheur National Forest recognizes the significance of First Foods to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the utility of the concept to help model ecosystem restoration. As described in the Tribe's Umatilla River Vision:

First Foods is a cultural strategy for natural resource management that may be a useful counterweight to address limitations and unintended ecological consequences of privatized and extractive resource use. It also integrates natural resources management with tribal resource needs.

The initial presentation of water in tribal ceremonies underscores the importance of water both as a resource in its own right and as a critical resource for supporting the production of remaining First Foods.

The primary significance of water and sustainable use of natural resources is also reflected in founding legislation of the Forest Service- the Organic Act of 1897:

...to improve and protect the forest... securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States.

Landscape scale restoration of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, which is generally advantageous to First Foods, is the primary goal of the Malheur's accelerated restoration program.

Most projects being planned and implemented on the Forest are part

of the accelerated restoration program. First Foods are listed below by their serving order as described in the Umatilla River Vision, with beneficial restoration projects listed under them.

1. Water (and related riparian systems)

- a. Aquatics Restoration EA
- b. Summit Watershed restoration
- c. Malheur Headwaters Springs
- d. Summit Creek Meadow
- e. Aspen Spring development
- f. Logan Valley Riparian Fencing
- g. Marshall Creek stream restoration
- h. Poison Creek spring development and fence
- i. Blue Mountain Ranger District Fish Passage Restoration 2019
- j. Butte Creek Reach 2a Rehabilitation
- k. Camp Creek Watershed Road Stormproofing and Decommissioning
- l. Camp Valley Aquatic Restoration
- m. Tinker Creek Aquatic Restoration
- n. West Fork Deer Creek Large Wood Placement
- o. Three Cabin Spring Water Development
- p. Range permit reauthorization NEPA
 - i. Roundtop Complex
 - ii. Blue Dollar Allotment
 - iii. Izee Allotment
 - iv. Central Malheur Allotment
- q. Malheur Headwaters riparian fencing project
- r. Malheur River Basin Water Quality Restoration Plan
- s. Austin Water Development FencingPhipps Meadow Beaver Forage
- t. Summit planting

2. Salmon (chinook, steelhead, lamprey, mussels, trout, whitefish, suckers)

- a. Aquatics Restoration EA
- i. See project list under Water above
- b. Fish passage improvement projects
- c. John Day Headwaters acquisition
- d. Crane Creek Fence
- e. Malheur River Fencing
- f. Summit Rock fence
- g. John Day River bridge
- h. 2019 Blue Mountain Ranger District Range Fences
South Middle Fork Allotment
Aquatic Restoration replacement
- i. Wiwaanayt Creek Fish Passage
- j. Robert's Creek Fish Passage

3. Deer (mule deer, rocky mountain elk, white tailed deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goat)

- a. John Day Headwaters acquisition
- b. Landscape scale fuels reduction projects (thinning and prescribed fire)
 - i. Austin
 - ii. Ragged Ruby
 - iii. Camp Lick
 - iv. Magone
 - v. Big Mosquito
 - vi. Summit
 - vii. Cliff Knox
 - viii. Elk 16
 - ix. Pine Creek WUI
 - x. Wolf
 - xi. Dove
 - xii. Marshall Devine
 - xiii. Dairy
 - xiv. Flat
- c. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration multi-party monitoring
- d. Wildlife Aspen Thinning
- e. Laycock Creek Firewise

4. Cows (celery, camas, bitterroot)

- a. Canyon Meadows dam removal and restoration camas inventory
- b. Meadow encroachment thinning projects
- c. Range permit reauthorization

NEPA

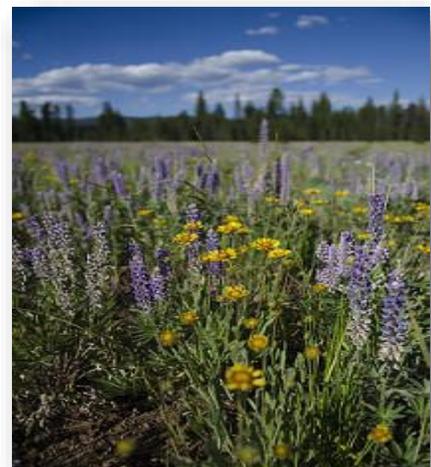
- i. See project list under Water above

5. Huckleberry (chokecherry)

- a. Big Mosquito huckleberry restoration units
- b. Chokecherry Restoration Aquatic Restoration
- c. Landscape scale fuels reduction projects (thinning and prescribed fire)
 - i. See project list under Deer above

Access by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to First Foods is a treaty protected right and we believe the landscape scale restoration efforts taking place on the Malheur National Forest will help ensure the availability of these culturally significant resources well into the future. To borrow a final quote from the Umatilla River Vision:

...progress is measured by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation community's continued ability to access, harvest, and process, preserve, and share First Foods at the longhouse and in their homes.



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Forest-wide



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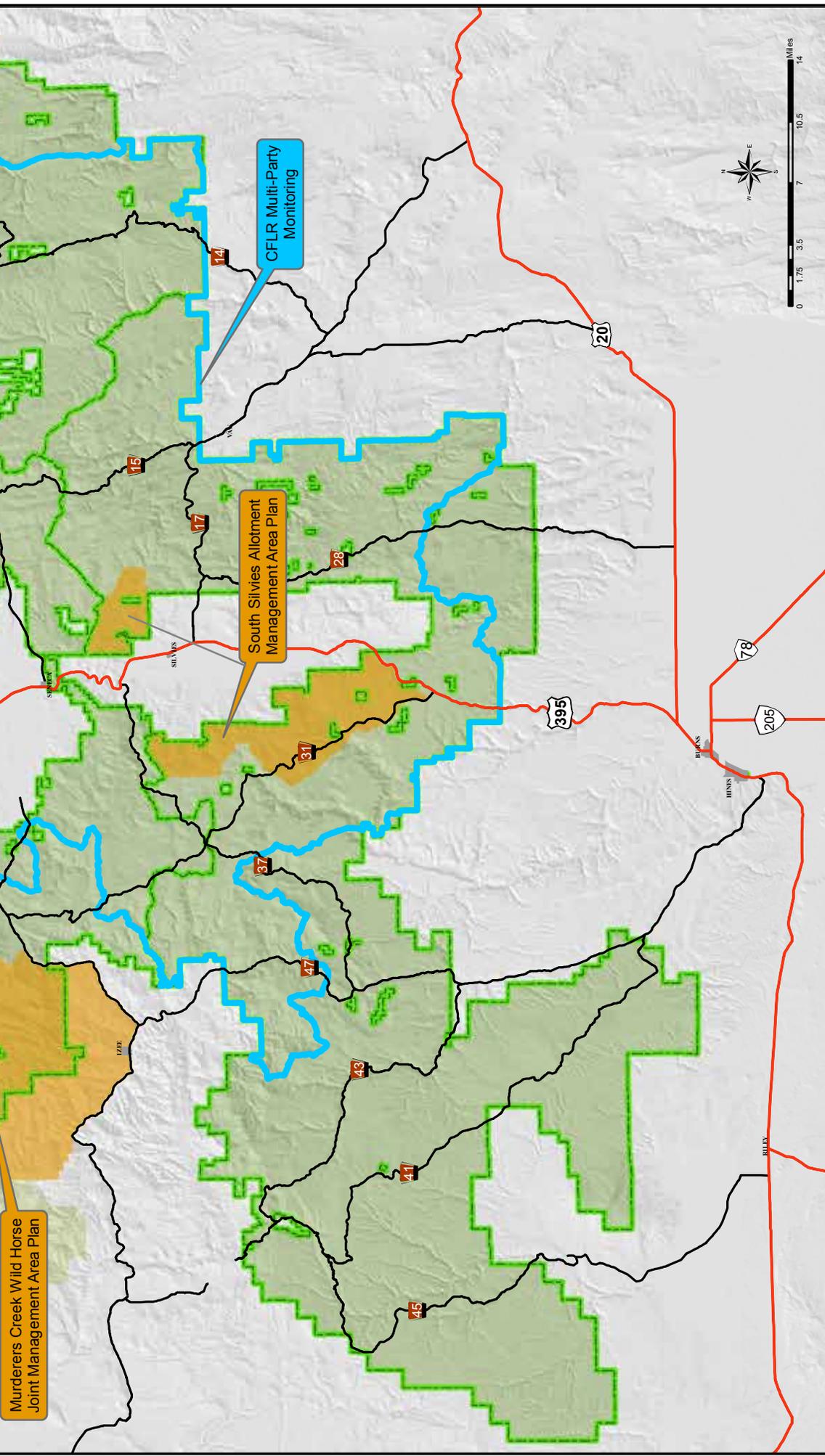
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Murderers Creek Wild Horse
Joint Management Area Plan

South Silvies Allotment
Management Area Plan

CFLR Multi-Party
Monitoring

- Aquatics and Watershed
- Engineering - Roads
- Lands and Minerals
- Range
- Recreation
- Special Use Permits
- Vegetation Management
- Special Project

- Malheur National Forest
- Adjacent National Forest
- Wilderness
- US or State Highway
- Major Road

Forest-wide Ongoing Project Update

(Presented in past year's POW packets)

Project Name	Project Status	NEPA process and timeline
<p>Aquatic Restoration Analysis and Implementation</p>	<p>NEPA: Completed – The Malheur National Forest continues to use the forest-wide Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA) NEPA to more efficiently implement 17 categories of aquatic restoration work. Proposed projects that meet project design criteria can be expedited. They are identified on an annual cycle by the Ranger Districts and Forest. The pre-project notification is available to the public under Aquatic Restoration at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/land/malheur/landmanagement.</p>	<p>Decision Notice (DN); signed on September 30, 2014. Implementation ongoing.</p>
<p>Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Multi-Party Monitoring Program</p>	<p>Includes various projects across the Forest that were approved through the collaborative groups for multi-party monitoring. The work monitors effectiveness of forest restoration projects and provides recommendations for adaptive management and future proposed actions. Work is ongoing and will be primarily accomplished through partnerships, including USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, Oregon State University, and others.</p>	<p>The Southern Blues Restoration Coalition project is a partnership with the two local collaborative groups, Harney County Restoration Coalition and Blue Mountain Forest Partners. This partnership as well as many other partners has helped bring to the Malheur National Forest an additional \$4 million annually to complete restoration work across 877,288 acres of the forest. This work includes upland resiliency treatments such as thinning and prescribed fire as well as riparian restoration, fish passage improvements, wildlife habitat enhancement, and noxious weed treatment projects. In 2017, over</p>

Project Name	Project Status	NEPA process and timeline
		32,000 acres received these treatments and the number of acres treated is expected to increase in 2018. Included with these funds is an expectation to complete on the ground monitoring of these treatments to ensure they are meeting the objectives expected or if adjustments need made going forward. With the help of the two collaborative groups, a very successful multi-party monitoring program has been set up that includes Oregon State University.
Travel Management (Subpart B)	NEPA: Developing proposals – Implement the 2005 National Travel Management Rule designating trails, roads, and possibly areas for motorized travel. Will analyze potential for motorized game retrieval and access for dispersed camping. Will not impact current firewood guidelines. Will result in publishing of Malheur Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).	This project will begin in the spring of 2018 with pre-scoping public meetings and coordination with Tribes and local governments. We estimate that the Notice of Intent will be published in the Federal Register of May or June of 2018.
Aquatic Monitoring/Survey	No NEPA decision; Region 6 Stream Surveys are completed on a subset of streams across the Forest each year (amount depending on funding). The focus is on condition of fish habitat, additional information is collected on fish occupancy and redds in coordination with the Burns Paiute Tribe, and Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. Additional monitoring for water temperature, Pacfish-Infish Biological Opinion (PIBO), aquatic mussels surveys, riparian green-line monitoring associated with livestock grazing also occur.	Monitoring and implementation ongoing.

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Forest Plan Revision: Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur National Forests

Decision Type:	Decision Date:	Estimated Implementation Year:
EIS	March 14, 2019	Withdrawn

Program Area: Forest Plan Revision

Project Contacts: Forest Supervisors -- Craig Trulock, Malheur National Forest (541-613-4279); Eric Watrud, Umatilla National Forest (541-278-3752); or Tom Montoya, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (541-523-1201)

Location: Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Affected Tribes, Counties, and States:

Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation,
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Nez Perce Tribe
State of Oregon: Baker, Grant, Harney, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and
Wheeler Counties
State of Washington: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla Counties

Overview: The Revised Forest Plans were developed to update the land management plans for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, which encompass approximately five million acres of public lands. **On March 14, 2019, Forest Service Acting Deputy Chief and Reviewing Officer, Chris French, issued a letter to the Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, Glenn Casamassa, with instructions to withdraw the Draft Record of Decision, Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the three Revised Forest Plans.**

Where we have been:

- Prior to 2014, we developed a range of Alternatives for the Draft EIS with input from a diversity of government entities, stakeholder groups, and the public.
- In 2014, we published the Draft EIS and received over a thousand letters during the formal public comment period.
- In 2015, to add context to the public comments, we followed up with a series of public listening sessions in communities across the Blue Mountains region.
- In 2016, in response to formal comments, listening-session input, and revised recommendations by resource specialists, we decided to analyze two additional Alternatives in the Final EIS.
- In 2016-2017, we re-initiated Tribal consultation. We also engaged with other government entities, including Counties, State Departments of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to the complexities of the EIS analysis, addressing questions and concerns from government entities in 2017 contributed to a longer Plan Revision timeline. To keep everyone informed on our progress, we shared periodic public updates through newsletters, audio broadcasts, and online FAQs.

- On June 29, 2018, the Forest Service initiated the Objection Process by publishing the Final EIS, three Revised Forest Plans, and a Draft Record of Decision.
- During July and August 2018, the Forest Service received approximately 350 objections to the Forest Plans.
- In November and December of 2018, objection resolution meetings were held in five different Eastern Oregon communities. Over 300 people participated voicing concerns and clarifying objections on a wide variety of issues.
- On March 14, 2019, Forest Service Acting Deputy Chief and Reviewing Officer, Chris French, issued a letter to the Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, Glenn Casamassa, with instructions to withdraw the Draft Record of Decision, Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the three Revised Forest Plans.

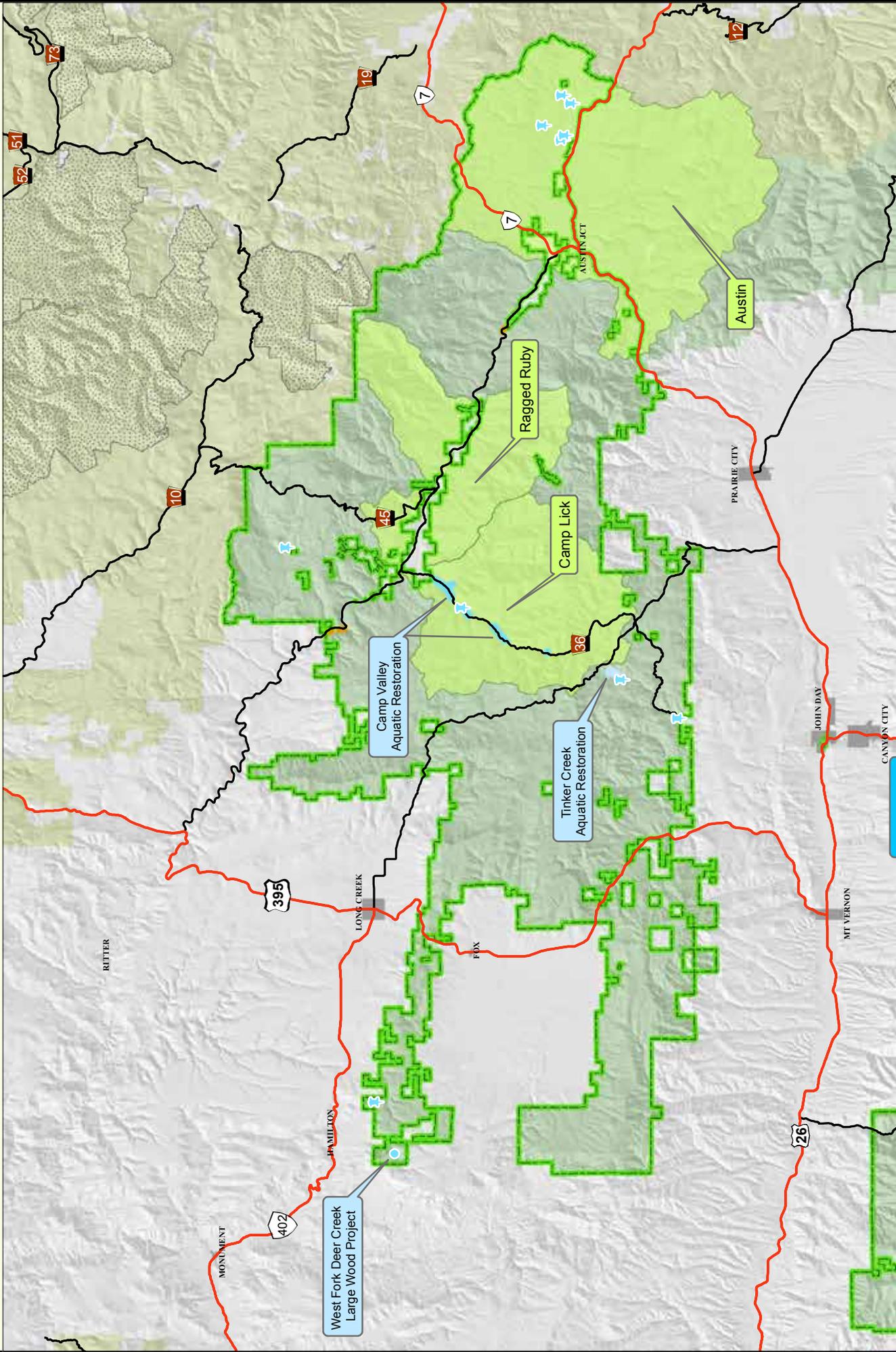
Next steps: To be determined. Following discussions with affected Tribes, Counties, States, and other interested parties during the spring and summer of 2019, the Forest Service plans to clarify the potential next steps during the fall or winter of 2019.

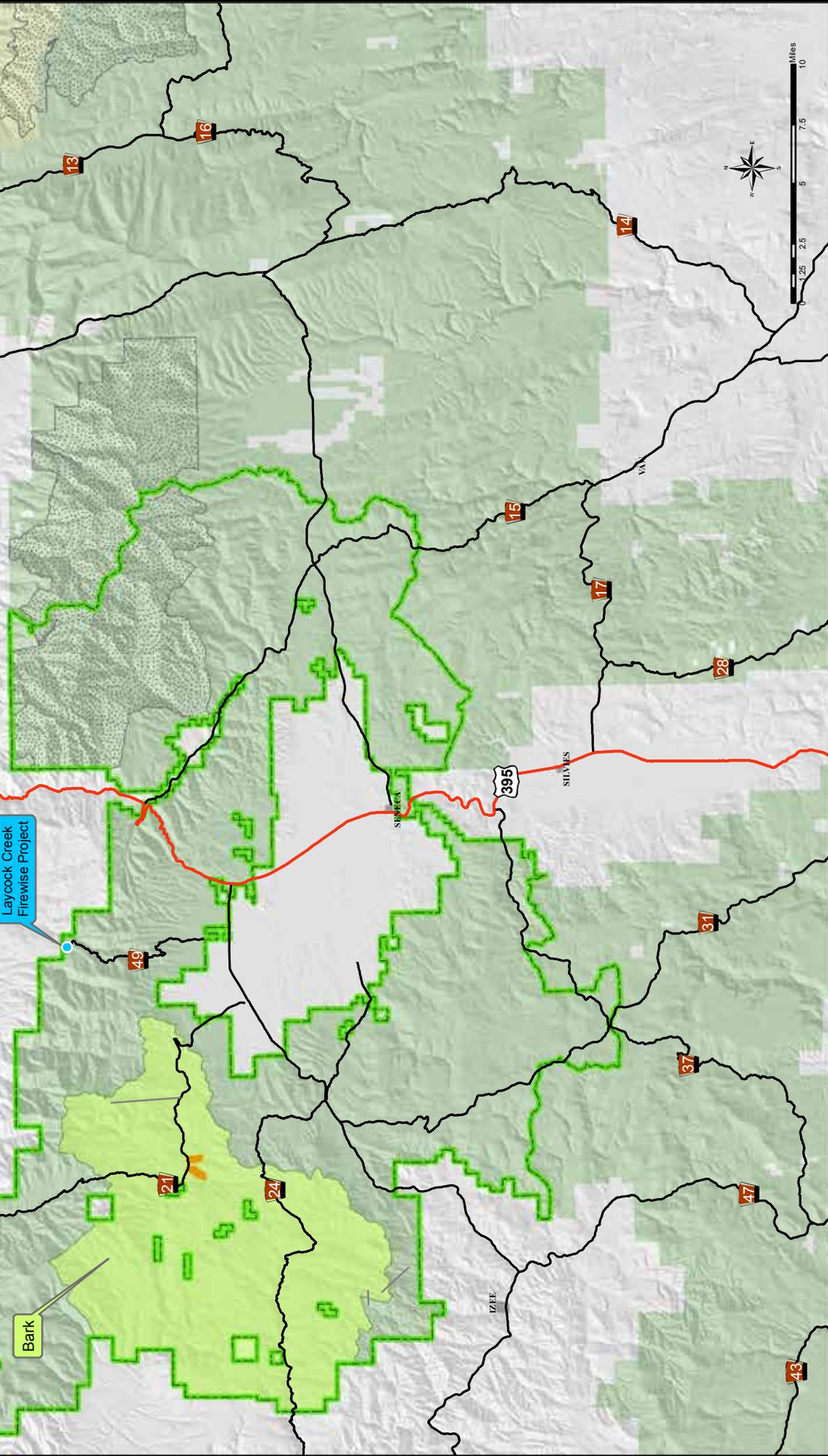
Blue Mountain Ranger District

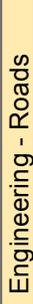
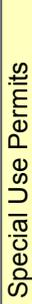
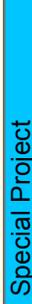


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*Malheur National Forest
Blue Mountain Ranger District FY 2019 Program of Work*





	Blue Mountain Ranger District		Fish Passage Restoration		Aquatics and Watershed
	Malheur National Forest		Range Fence Project		Engineering - Roads
	Adjacent National Forest				Lands and Minerals
	Wilderness				Range
	US or State Highway				Recreation
	Major Road				Special Use Permits
					Vegetation Management
					Special Project

Blue Mountain Ranger District Ongoing Project Update

(Presented in past year's POW packets)

Project Name	Project Status	NEPA Process and Timeline
Murderer's Creek Wild Horse Joint Management Area Plan EIS.	NEPA: Developing proposals – Malheur NF and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Prineville District Office are jointly developing draft Purpose and Need/Proposed Action and Appropriate Management Level (AML) determinations. Once these two foundational items are established, Enterprise TEAMS would conduct the bulk of the work.	BLM/FS NEPA MOU signed. Interagency Agreement between BLM, ODFW, and FS signed. Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); estimated decision date spring of 2020 .
Austin	NEPA: Developing proposals.	Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); scoping period is expected to begin in spring of 2019. Estimated decision date in summer of 2020.
Roundtop Complex Allotment Management Plans Project	NEPA: On hold.	Environmental Assessment; the project is currently on hold.
Ragged Ruby	NEPA: Under analysis – Resource specialists are currently analyzing the impacts of the project's alternatives. 33,767 total project acres.	Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); estimated decision date in September 2019.

Camp Lick	NEPA: Under analysis – The project has gone through the objection filing and resolution periods on the Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) and Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI). 38,838 total project acres.	Environmental Assessment (EA); Estimated decision date in summer of 2019.
Magone	NEPA: Completed	Decision Notice (DN) signed May 2017. Implementation is ongoing.
Starr Aspen	NEPA: Completed.	Decision Notice (DN) signed August 2016. Implementation is ongoing.
Laycock Creek Meadow Fence Project	NEPA: Analysis completed (completed under the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA) Project) – Laycock Meadow, in the Hanscom Allotment, will be fenced to exclude livestock use and to protect and improve riparian habitat	Completed Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA) checklists spring 2016. Implementation began in summer 2017 and will be completed in 2019.
Rosebud Spring and Aspen Protection Project	NEPA: Analysis completed (completed under the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA) Project) – A combination of fencing, strategic tree felling, and spring developments will be implemented at the Morgan Creek Spring, Dry Soda Spring, and Stonewall Spring to reduce access by wildlife, wild horses, and livestock and allow passive restoration to improve hydrologic, geomorphic and vegetative function to the sites.	Completed Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA) checklist spring 2016. Implementation began in 2017 and will be completed in 2019.

<p>Scotty Creek Spring Development Project</p>	<p>NEPA: Analysis completed (completed under the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA) Project) – This project authorized 12 off-channel water developments and 2 stream crossings across 3 pastures within the Scotty Creek Allotment. These developments will facilitate the establishment of a high-intensity-short duration management style that will provide better options for resting pastures to improve forage plants, minimize impacts to stream banks, and reduce sediment inputs to streams. The proposed developments will additionally help decrease livestock pressure and use along streams and riparian habitat conservation areas, including habitat for Interior redband trout.</p>	<p>Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA) checklist will be completed in 2018. Implementation to occur in 2018-2019.</p>
<p>Bear Creek Aquatic Restoration Project</p>	<p>NEPA: Analysis completed (completed under the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA) Project) – This project authorized construction of large woody debris jams and beaver dam analogues to increase pool frequency and improve habitat for beaver. In addition, 769 feet of berms were removed through two segments of stream to increase the width of floodplain that is inundated during bankfull events.</p>	<p>Completed Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA) checklist spring 2018. Implementation began in 2018 and will be completed in 2019.</p>

First Foods Component Projects

NEPA Completed:

Project(s): Big Mosquito

- Provide partially open canopies for huckleberry plants, target canopy closure of 30- 40% for huckleberry enhancement
- Huckleberry enhancement treatment – some units within the understory removal and free selection prescriptions are also designated for huckleberry enhancement. For these units the desired condition would be to reduce canopy cover 30 to 40 percent where huckleberry plants exist, while still remaining within prescription guidelines. Commercial harvest would be completed during the winter over snow cover so as to protect existing plants, and units would be prescribed burned. Approximately 800 acres are designated for huckleberry enhancement.

Project(s): Big Mosquito

- Huckleberry and other native plant populations may be improved by the reduction of fuel load via specific silviculture treatments.

Projects under analysis

Project(s): Camp Lick, Ragged Ruby

- Purpose and need includes an objective to maintain and increase the availability of traditional use foods within the planning areas (e.g., huckleberries, mushrooms, and riparian hardwoods).

Projects under developments

Project(s): Austin

- Purpose and need includes an objective to maintain and increase the availability of traditional use foods within the planning areas (e.g., huckleberries, mushrooms, and riparian hardwoods).



Project Name: Bark Project

Program Area: Integrated Vegetation Management – Fire, Fuels, Timber and Silviculture

Project Contact: Beth Parker, 541-575-3187, bethanysparker@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	March 2021	2021

Location: Murderers Creek and Middle South Fork John Day River watersheds. Township 14 South, Range 28 East, sec. 21-22, 26-35; Township 14 South, Range 29 East, sec. 20-22, 26-29, 31-35; Township 15 South, Range 27 East, sec. 1, 12-14, 23-27, 34-35; Township 15 South, Range 28 East, sec. 1-36; Township 15 South, Range 29 East, sec. 2-24, 26-32; Township 15 South, Range 30 East, sec. 7-8, 17-19; Township 16 South, Range 27 East, sec. 1-3, 10-15, 22-25; Township 16 South, Range 28 East, sec. 1-30, 32-35; and Township 16 South, Range 29 East, sec. 5-8, 17-19.

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: This project is in the very early stages of development and could include upland restoration, aquatic restoration, wildlife habitat restoration, prescribed burning and unplanned ignitions, road activities (such as road maintenance and temporary road construction), road system changes (such as road decommissioning, closure, opening, and relocation), and recreation system changes (such as trail construction).

Impacts to tribal resources: This project is anticipated to improve forage for big game. Tribal resources, including edible plants, would be enhanced. Aquatic habitat and cultural resources would be protected through the use of project design criteria and activity location. A cultural resource survey will be completed.

Map: (only if it gives a good, visual description of project area. Must have identifying labels to orient the user. Also, please try to use black and white maps if possible to save on color printing)

Project Name: Blue Mountain Ranger District Fish Passage Restoration 2019

Program Area: Aquatics, Fish and Watershed

Project Contact: Dan Armichardy, 541-575-3391, darmichardy@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA)	Spring 2019	2019-2024

Location: Work will occur at the East Fork Beech Creek – National Forest System (NFS) Road 3600052, Tinker Creek – NFS Road 3620, Cottonwood Creek – NFS Road 3600, Summit Creek – NFS Road 2622, Summit Creek – NFS Road 1940, Summit Creek – NFS Road 1940281, Idaho Creek – NFS Road 2622, Idaho Creek – NFS Road 2622172, Deadwood Creek – NFS Road 4560, and East Fork Deer Creek – NFS Road 4020 crossings. Township 9 South, Range 33 East, sec. 20; Township 10 South, Range 23 East, sec. 35; Township 10 South, Range 29 East, sec. 7; Township 11 South, Range 35½ East, sec. 23, 25, and 27; Township 11 South, Range 36 East, sec. 36; Township 12 South, Range 31 East, sec. 12; and Township 12 South, Range 32 East, sec. 5.

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: Replacement of 10 fish passage barrier culverts with aquatic organism passage culverts.



Figure 1. East Fork Beech Creek (left), Tinker Creek (center), and Deadwood Creek (right) culverts

Impacts to tribal resources: The project is anticipated to restore passage for Middle Columbia River steelhead, Columbia River bull trout, and other aquatic species. In-stream work will be completed during a low flow period to reduce

impacts to fish.

Map: (only if it gives a good, visual description of project area. Must have identifying labels to orient the user. Also, please try to use black and white maps if possible to save on color printing)

Project Name: Butte Creek Reach 2a Rehabilitation Project

Program Area: Aquatics, Fish and Watershed

Project Contact: Mary Lou Welby, 541-575-3368, mwelby@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA)	Spring 2019	2019

Location: Camp Creek-Middle Fork John Day River Watershed. Township 11 South, Range 34 East, sec. 5

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: Relocate small parts of National Forest System Roads 2050 and 2050072 away from Butte Creek, place large woody material (some with root wads attached) into Butte Creek, seed and plant hardwoods in decommissioned areas install two flood relief culverts at the Butte Creek – National Forest System Road 2050072 road crossing.

Impacts to tribal resources: This project is anticipated to improve riparian and aquatic habitat, including critical habitat for Middle Columbia River steelhead and other aquatic species. In-stream work will be completed during a low flow period to reduce impacts to fish.

Map: (only if it gives a good, visual description of project area. Must have identifying labels to orient the user. Also, please try to use black and white maps if possible to save on color printing)

Project Name: Camp Creek Watershed Road Stormproofing and Decommissioning Project

Program Area: Aquatics, Fish and Watershed

Project Contact: Bob Hassmiller, 541-575-3433, rjhassmiller@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA) and Camp Lick EA	Spring 2019	2019-2024 (depending on if road will be used for haul)

Location: Camp Creek-Middle Fork John Day River Watershed. Township 10 South, Range 32 East, sec. 19-36; Township 10 South, Range 33 East, sec. 18, 19, 30-32; Township 11 South, Range 32 East, sec. 1-36; Township 11 South, Range 33 East, sec. 4-10, 15-22, 28-32; and Township 12 South, Range 32 East, sec. 1-5, 8-12.

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: This roads project will decommission approximately 19.3 miles of both closed and open roads and stormproof 157.6 miles that are having adverse impacts to hillslope and watershed hydrologic processes, riparian and aquatic habitats. Ecological goals of this project include improving summer base flows through reducing drainage efficiency from ridge to stream and for improving water quality standards in a high priority watershed. This project will use a combination of NEPA documents from the Camp Lick Decision Notice and the Aquatic Restoration checklist.



Figure 1. Gully draining down the road prism



Figure 2. Groundwater being intercepted

Impacts to tribal resources: This project is anticipated to improve water storage and hillslope processes, along with riparian and aquatic habitat, including critical habitat for Middle Columbia River steelhead, juvenile chinook, and other aquatic species. Work occurring directly next to a stream would be completed during the instream work window to reduce impacts to fish. The ecological goals are aligned well with CTUIR's profound river vision.

Map: (only if it gives a good, visual description of project area. Must have identifying labels to orient the user. Also, please try to use black and white maps if possible to save on color printing)

Project Name: Camp Valley Aquatic Restoration

Program Area: Aquatics, Fish and Watershed

Project Contact: Dan Armichardy, 541-575-3391, darmichardy@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA)	Spring 2019	2019

Location: Camp Creek-Middle Fork John Day River Watershed. Township 10 South, Range 32 East, sec. 25, 35, and 36 and Township 11 South, Range 32 East, sec. 2, 3, 9, 10, and 16

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: Remove railroad grade berms that effectively split the valley in half, redistribute the soil in the railroad grade as a growth medium for riparian grasses and shrubs, activate secondary side channels, place wood at strategic locations, fence existing hardwoods and shrubs, plant cottonwood and willow, and rebuild existing wildlife exclosure.



Figure 2. Railroad grade levee going up middle of valley in Camp Creek Reach 4

Impacts to tribal resources: This project is anticipated to improve riparian and aquatic habitat, including critical habitat for Middle Columbia River steelhead and

other aquatic species. In-stream work will be completed during a low flow period to reduce impacts to fish.

Map: (only if it gives a good, visual description of project area. Must have identifying labels to orient the user. Also, please try to use black and white maps if possible to save on color printing)

Project Name: Laycock Creek Firewise Project

Program Area: Integrated Vegetation Management – Fire, Fuels, Timber and Silviculture

Project Contact: Amanda Lindsay, 541-575-3333, alindsay@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Categorical Exclusion	January 2020	2020

Location: Laycock Creek-John Day River Watershed. Township 14 South, Range 30 East, sec. 22, 25-27, and 34-36.

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: Commercial and non-commercial thinning of approximately 2,600 acres directly adjacent to private property within the Wildland Urban Interface boundary. Thinning will be followed by fuels reduction treatments and prescribed burning. Treatments will be designed to reduce fire risk and enhance wildlife habitat.

Impacts to tribal resources: This project is anticipated to improve forage for big game. Aquatic habitat and cultural resources would be protected through the use of project design criteria and activity location. A cultural resource survey will be completed.

Map: (only if it gives a good, visual description of project area. Must have identifying labels to orient the user. Also, please try to use black and white maps if possible to save on color printing)

Project Name: 2019 Blue Mountain Ranger District Range Fence Project

Program Area: Range

Project Contact: Nick Stiner, 541-575-3496, nstiner@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA)	Spring 2019	2019

Location: Big Creek-Middle Fork John Day River, Camp Creek-Middle Fork John Day River, and Murderers Creek watersheds. Township 9 South, Range 32 East, section 34; Township 9 South, Range 33 East, sec. 19, 20, 29, and 30; Township 10 South, Range 32 East, sec. 2, 3, and 11; Township 11 South, Range 34 East, sec. 11 and 12; Township 15 South, Range 28 East, sec. 20; and Township 15 South, Range 29 East, sec. 19 and 20.

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: Constructing fence exclosures around Most Sensitive Riparian Area (MSRA) and/or critical habitat on Bear Creek, Big Creek, Caribou Creek, Dans Creek, Deadwood Creek, Middle Fork John Day River, Orange Creek, and South Fork Murderers Creek in the North Middle Fork, Lower Middle Fork, and Murderers Creek allotments.

Impacts to tribal resources: This project is anticipated to reduce impacts to riparian and aquatic habitat, including critical habitat for Middle Columbia River steelhead and other aquatic species. A cultural resource survey will be completed. In-stream work will be completed during a low flow period to reduce impacts to fish.

Map: (only if it gives a good, visual description of project area. Must have identifying labels to orient the user. Also, please try to use black and white maps if possible to save on color printing)

Project Name: Tinker Creek Aquatic Restoration Project

Program Area: Aquatics, Fish and Watershed

Project Contact: Dan Armichardy, 541-575-3391, darmichardy@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA)	Spring 2019	2019

Location: 1 mile east of Magone Lake. Township 12 South, Range 32 East, sec. 5.

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: Tinker Creek is one of three primary perennial tributaries to East Fork Beech Creek, a tributary to the John Day River. Historically, steelhead spawned in large numbers in this stream (see Figure 1). Due to degradation of the stream channel and riparian area from legacy logging and livestock use, portions of Tinker Creek become intermittent during drought years. The Tinker Creek Aquatic Restoration Project focuses work on the headwaters of Tinker Creek which are low gradient wide valleys (which trap, store, and gradually release water). Work will entail removing encroaching lodgepole pine and placing these trees within the stream to facilitate streambed aggradation and floodplain expansion. Lodgepole pine will also be used to create riparian hardwood exclosures to facilitate beaver habitat expansion and protect willows from ungulates. An abandoned concrete gauging station and dam, as well as a legacy berm which blocks fish passage completely too approximately 2 miles of cool headwater stream, will also be removed as part of this project. Work will be completed using a single excavator.

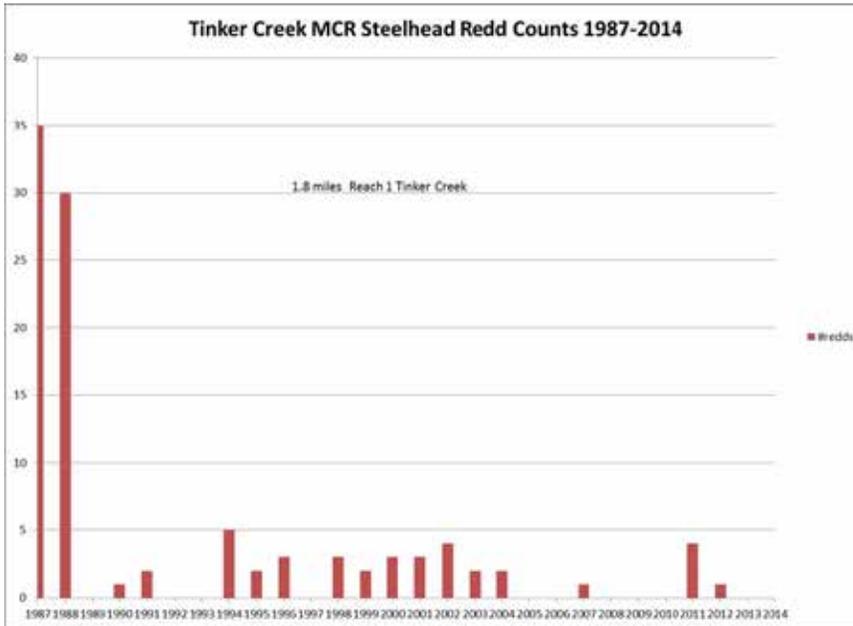


Figure 3. Middle Columbia River steelhead redd counts in Tinker Creek



Figure 4. General riparian and stream channel condition within the project area



Figure 5. Downstream channel conditions from project area to confluence of East Fork Beech Creek

Impacts to tribal resources: This project is anticipated to improve riparian and aquatic habitat, including critical habitat for Middle Columbia River steelhead and other aquatic species. In-stream work will be completed during a low flow period to reduce impacts to fish.

Map: (only if it gives a good, visual description of project area. Must have identifying labels to orient the user. Also, please try to use black and white maps if possible to save on color printing)

Project Name: West Fork Deer Creek Large Wood Placement Project

Program Area: Aquatics, Fish and Watershed

Project Contact: Dan Armichardy, 541-575-3391, darmichardy@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA)	Spring 2019	2019

Location: Lower North Fork John Day River Watershed. Township 10 South, Range 28 East, sec. 14 and 15

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: Trees will be hand-felled within West Fork Deer Creek Reaches 2 and 3 and its floodplain.

Impacts to tribal resources: This project is anticipated to reduce impacts to riparian and aquatic habitat, including critical habitat for Middle Columbia River steelhead and other aquatic species. In-stream work will be completed during a low flow period to reduce impacts to fish.

Map: (only if it gives a good, visual description of project area. Must have identifying labels to orient the user. Also, please try to use black and white maps if possible to save on color printing)

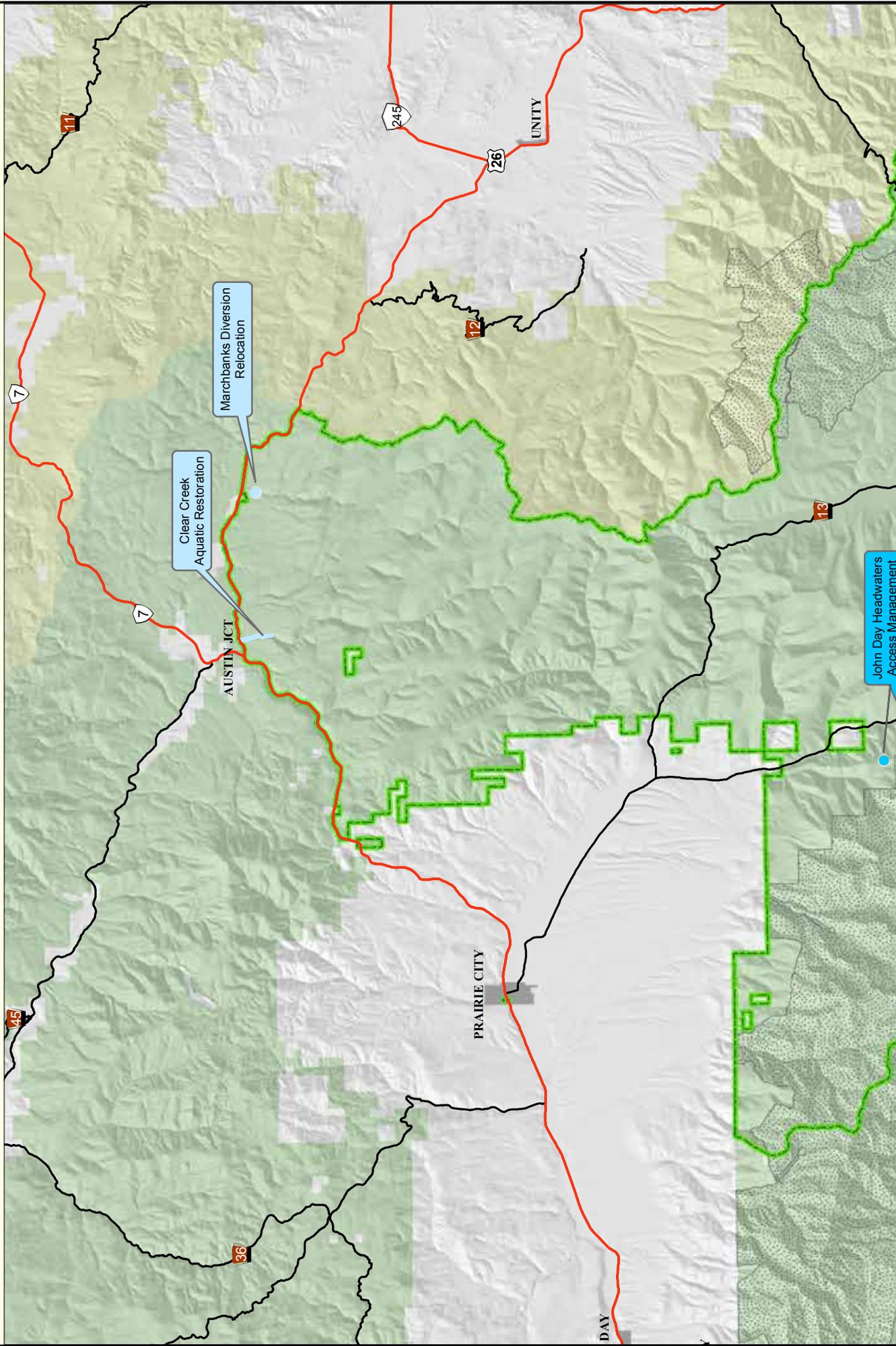
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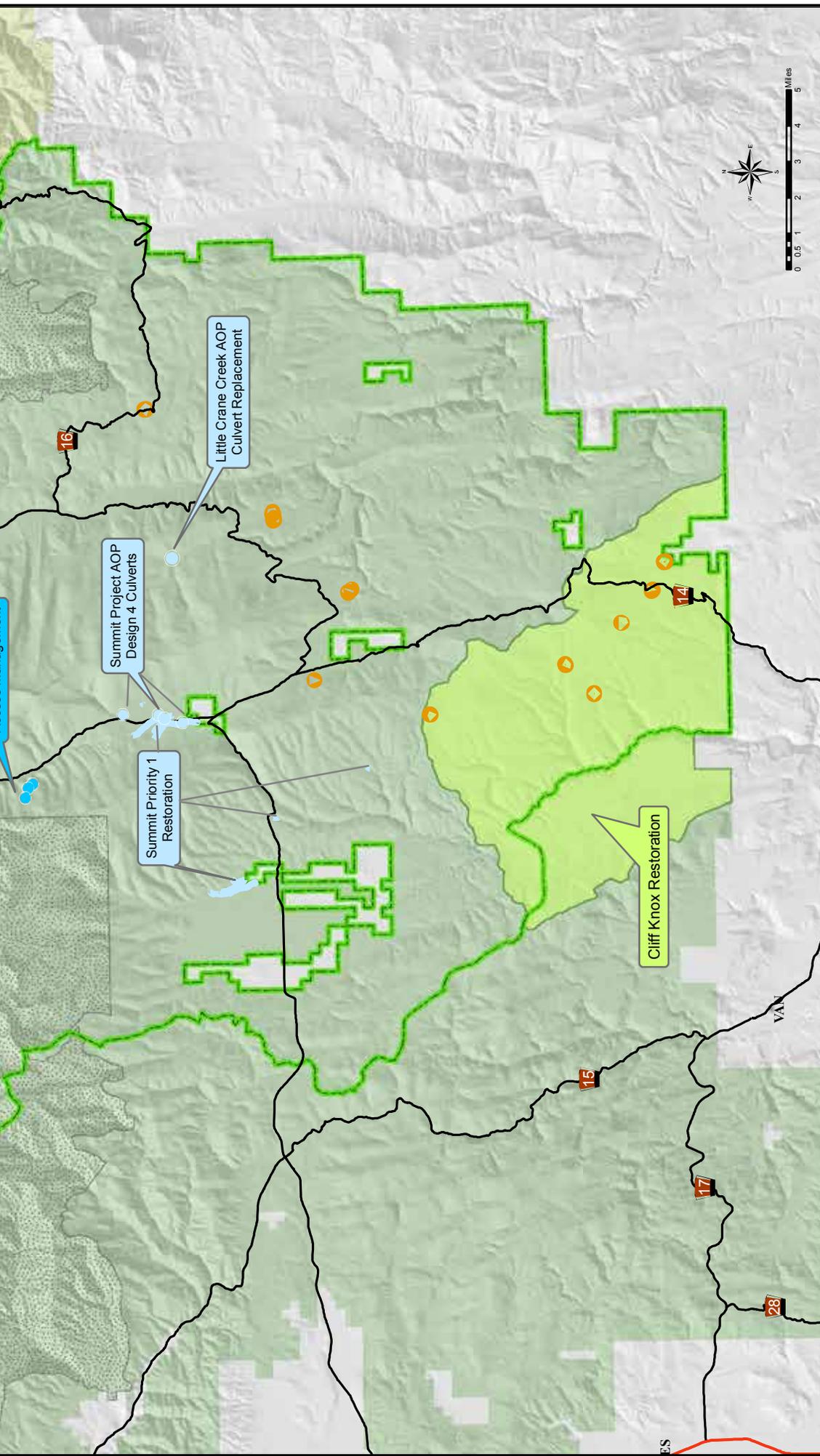
Prairie City Ranger District



Ed Guzman, District Ranger
327 Front Street
Prairie City, Oregon 97869
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eguzman@fs.fed.us

*Malheur National Forest
Prairie City Ranger District FY 2019 Program of Work*





- Prairie City Ranger District
- Malheur National Forest
- Adjacent National Forest
- Wilderness
- US or State Highway
- Major Road

● Exclude Construction Infrastructure Design

- Aquatics and Watershed
- Engineering - Roads
- Lands and Minerals
- Range
- Recreation
- Special Use Permits
- Vegetation Management
- Special Project

Prairie City Ranger District Ongoing Project Update

(Presented in past year's POW packets)

Project Name	Project Status	NEPA Process and Timeline
Cliff Knox Restoration	NEPA: Under Analysis. Resource specialists are currently analyzing the impacts of the projects alternatives. 40,000 total project acres.	Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); estimated decision date in January 2020.
Summit Restoration	NEPA: Complete.	Environmental Assessment (EA); Decision date September 2017. Implementation is ongoing.
Blue Dollar Complex Allotment Management Plans Project	NEPA: Complete.	Environmental Assessment (EA); Decision December 2017. Implementation ongoing.
Elk 16 Restoration	NEPA: Complete.	Environmental Assessment (EA); signed decision September 2015. Implementation is ongoing.
Whitebark Pine Protection	NEPA: Complete. Thinning around Whitebark Pine to reduce competition and improve growth space.	Categorical Exclusion (CE), Decision Memo (DM); signed July 2016. Work postponed; anticipated completion Fall 2019.
Wiwaanayt Creek (formerly Sq*** Creek) on Middle Fork of John Day.	NEPA: Complete. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1: Construction completed in 2015, planting of willow seedlings and willow and cottonwood stakes along 0.5 miles of stream in 2016 • Phase 2: Construction completed in 2016 with historic channel reconnected for approximately 1 mile, and improvements made throughout 70 acre meadow to restore floodplain connectivity. 	Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA); signed September 30, 2014. Implementation near completion.

Project Name	Project Status	NEPA Process and Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 3a: Construction completed in 2017 with approximately 1 mile of instream weir removal/large wood placement and replacement of one fish passage barrier culvert. • Phase 3b: Proposed implementation in 2018 with approximately one mile of instream work including weir removal, large wood placement and historical channel re-activation. In addition, two fish barrier culverts are scheduled for replacement with Aquatic Organism Passage designed culverts. This project will aim to improve juvenile fish passage, spawning and rearing habitat and floodplain connectivity. Phase 3b was completed in 2018. • Phase 3c: Proposed implementation in 2019 with 25 acres of lodgepole thinning and piling in the lower meadow reach to remove conifers encroaching on the meadow. Piles will be burned in 2020 or 2021. 	
Summit Watershed Aspen and Large Wood Projects	NEPA: Complete. Ongoing project using mule deer initiative funds to pay for fire crew.	Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA); signed September 30, 2014. Implementation is ongoing.
Malheur Headwater Spring Protection (8 springs)	NEPA: Complete. Includes the installation of troughs and fence around the spring source. Implementation: 16 Ponds – trough installed, fence to be completed in 2018. Others to be done: DR Cabin, BC3, Old Growth, Cage, Keg, Bastard, CB& JB. Ongoing as funds Available.	Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA); signed September 30, 2014. Implementation ongoing.
Malheur River Large Wood Project – Phase 1	NEPA: Complete. Placement of over 500 pieces of large	Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA);

Project Name	Project Status	NEPA Process and Timeline
	<p>wood with helicopter occurred in summer 2018.</p> <p>Planting of riparian hardwoods in the upper mile of the project area will occur in 2019.</p>	<p>signed September 30, 2014. Primary implementation completed summer 2018.</p>
Riparian Fencing	<p>NEPA: Complete. Ongoing riparian fence construction. Phase 1: Two exclosures along Summit Creek in Sagehen Pasture – one completed in 2016, other to be completed in 2018. Phase 2: two exclosures along West Summit Creek, completed 2016. Phase 3: exclosures along Summit Creek in Little Logan Pasture. Phase 4: exclosures along Summit Creek in Summit Rock Pasture.</p>	<p>Work being completed under Summit Logan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); Decision Notice signed September 2013. Implementation is ongoing as funding becomes available.</p>
Summit and Bosonberg subwatershed RHCA roads decommissioning	NEPA: Complete.	<p>Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA); signed September 30, 2014. Implementation ongoing.</p>
Lake Creek Site Mitigation	<p>NEPA: No NEPA decision. Completed initial consultation on the proposed mitigation. MOA formalizing the mitigation. Completed excavation of two 1x1 meter test units in Fall 2015. Artifact analysis and testing report to be completed in Winter 2019.</p>	No NEPA.
John Day Headwaters Access Management Road Closures	NEPA: Categorical Exclusion (CE) in progress.	Planned implementation Fall 2019.
Headwaters/Logan Valley Interpretive Sign Installation	NEPA: Categorical Exclusion (CE) in progress.	Planned to complete NEPA by October 2019 with implementation in 2020.
Summit Creek Restoration Planting (Turkey Federation)	NEPA: Aquatics restoration checklist. Seed collected from sites on Prairie City Ranger District seed zone locations similar to Summit Creek. Seed stratified, stored, and currently	Completed October 2018.

Project Name	Project Status	NEPA Process and Timeline
	being grown out by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. During the fall of 2018, stock grown by CTWS will be planted at identified areas along Summit Creek. This work was funded by the Wild Turkey Federation in an effort to improve habitat for Wild Turkeys and other wildlife species.	
Logan Valley Willow Exclosure	NEPA: Aquatics restoration checklist.	Completed summer 2018.
Rail Post Fire Planting	NEPA: Complete.	Categorical Exclusion (CE) Decision Memo (DM); signed May 2018. Planting to be implemented 2019 and 2020 in April/May; weather dependent.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Fence Relocation	NEPA: Complete.	Categorical Exclusion (CE); Project location is being flagged, implementation possible beginning 2019.
Lower Field Corner Fence	NEPA: Complete.	Categorical Exclusion (CE); Implementation pending funding.
Sullens Fence	NEPA: Under Analysis.	Categorical Exclusion (CE); Project is designed, possible implementation beginning 2020.
Crane Prairie Corral Relocation	NEPA: Needs new NEPA if moved off former footprint. Project is still under discussion	Project is currently in the design phases, pending time and funding.
Rocking Chair Fence	NEPA: Completed.	Summit Logan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); signed 2013. Project is to be completed by Dollar Basin permittee before livestock turnout into that

Project Name	Project Status	NEPA Process and Timeline
		pasture, pending use of pasture.

Project Name: Clear Creek Aquatic Restoration

Program Area: Aquatics

Project Contact: Jeff Nelson, 541-820-3818, jeffreynelson@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Completed under the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Analysis (EA) Final Decision	The Decision Notice for the Aquatic Restoration Project was signed in 2015	2019

Location: Clear Creek, Clear Creek Subwatershed, T10S, R35E, Sec 34 & T12S, R35E, Sec 3; approximately 13 miles Northeast of Prairie City, Oregon.

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: This project will remove 10 legacy structures which are acting as juvenile migration barriers to allow native salmonids access to over 5 miles of quality aquatic habitat upstream of the project area. We will also add large wood structures to the channel and floodplain to increase frequency of floodplain inundation, in-channel habitat complexity and re-invigorate the riparian hardwood community.

Impacts to tribal resources: Restoration would improve stream habitat for native salmonids such as Chinook, steelhead, bull trout, and redband trout by enhancing habitat complexity and access to spawning and rearing sites. A cultural resource survey will be completed prior to implementation and all prehistoric resources will be avoided. In-stream work will be completed during ODFW’s in-water work period to minimize negative impacts to native trout and other aquatic organisms.

Project Name: Exclosure Construction; Isham Spring Exclosure, L&H and Barnett Aspen Exclosure, Halfway Aspen Exclosure, and Big Field Fen Exclosure

Program Area: Range

Project Contact: Jason Spence, 541-820-3849, jspence@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Completed under the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Analysis (EA) Final Decision	The Decision Notice for the Aquatic Restoration Project was signed in 2015	2019-2022

Location: Isham Spring Exclosure: T 13S, R 34, S12; approximately 7 miles east of Prairie City, OR, east of FS 16 Road.

L&H and Barnett Aspen Exclosure: T 16S, R 35E, S15; approximately 19 miles southeast of Prairie City, OR, east of FS 16 Road

Halfway Aspen Exclosure: T 16S, R 35E, S29; approximately 19 miles southeast of Prairie City, OR. There are 4 separate exclosures to be built.

Big Field Fen: T 16S, R 33 1/2E, S 14 and 15; approximately 19 mile south of Prairie City, OR, north of the FS 16 road in Logan Valley.

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: Fencing off sensitive riparian areas to protect the riparian areas and related sensitive riparian species from grazing. The protection of the riparian areas aims to improve forest health and resiliency by encouraging desirable riparian conditions including increase productions of riparian obligate graminoid and woody species, and the spring fed recharge of critical habitat fisheries.

Impacts to tribal resources: The project is anticipated to improve forage for big game. Protection of natural spring areas will improve forest conditions with springs not being trampled shut by livestock. Wildlife friendly buck and pole fencing to be used to restrict access from livestock grazing, without removing the habitat from available big game forage. Aquatic habitat and cultural resources would be protected under the design and implementation of the projects.

Project Name: Infrastructure Design: No Mans Exclosure, Crane Prairie Corral Relocation, McCoy Allotment Pasture Redesign, Anderson Creek Redesign, Beaver Pond Fence Relocation, and Knox Meadow Redesign

Program Area: Range

Project Contact: Jason Spence, 541-820-3849, jspence@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Completed under the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Analysis (EA) Final Decision	The Decision Notice for the Aquatic Restoration Project was signed in 2015	2019-2024

Location: No Mans Exclosure: T16S, R35E, S30 at the junction of FS 1663 road and FS 673 road

Crane Prairie corral relocation: T16S, R34E, S 24 and 30

McCoy Allotment pasture redesign: T16S, R33 1/2E, S22 and 27 – 18 miles south of Prairie City, OR, south of FS 16 road in the Logan Valley.

Anderson Creek redesign: T15S, R36E, S25, 26, 27, 28 and 32

Beaver Pond fence relocation: T16S, R34E, S30

Knox Meadow redesign: T17S, R35E, S 18 and 19

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: The purpose of this project is to redesign fences in order to improve or protect habitat. The fence redesigns would remove sensitive riparian areas from grazing or more effectively distribute grazing to limit resource damage from livestock grazing.

Impacts to tribal resources: The project is anticipated to improve forest health by relieving grazing impacts on riparian areas by better distributing livestock across the landscape. The reduction of grazing on riparian areas will minimize risk of livestock trampling of redds, remove riparian species from grazing pressures, and improve habitat cover for critical fisheries. Cultural resources would also be protected through the design criteria and implementation of the projects.

Project Name: Interpretive Sign Installation: John Day Headwaters Viewpoint and Logan Valley

Program Area: Wildlife

Project Contact: Rachael Vaughn, 541-820-3857, rmvaughn@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Categorical Exclusion (CE)	October 2019	2020

Location: Logan Valley (T16 R33½ 15 SE/SW) (wayside pullout along the 16 road); View site location of the John Day Headwaters project (T15 R35 1 NE/SE).

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: The district proposal to install two interpretive signs: one in Logan Valley and one at the view site location of the John Day Headwaters project. These signs will include information on wildlife security and the John Day Headwaters Project. This sign installation project will require excavation for post holes (a minimum quantity of four, maximum quantity of eight, dependent on the size of the signs) using hand held tools (post hole digger, shovel and pry bar), for which each excavation would be 3 feet deep by 1 foot wide.

Impacts to tribal resources: Completion of the CE is in progress. Logan Valley is a significant site identified by the CTUIR as well as the Burns Paiute Tribe. Consultation with the Tribes would occur to design and place an interpretive sign that would reduce adverse effects to this significant resource and be supported by the tribes.

Project Name: John Day Headwaters Access Management

Program Area: Wildlife

Project Contact: Rachael Vaughn, 541-820-3857, rmvaughn@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Categorical Exclusion (CE)	May 2019	2019

Location: Gate and sign location along the 6200-778 road at the 041 junction (T. 15 S, R. 34 E, NE ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 1); Boulders installed to block off the 6200-043, 044, and 046 roads along the 6200-778 road (T. 15 S, R. 35 E, S ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 7).

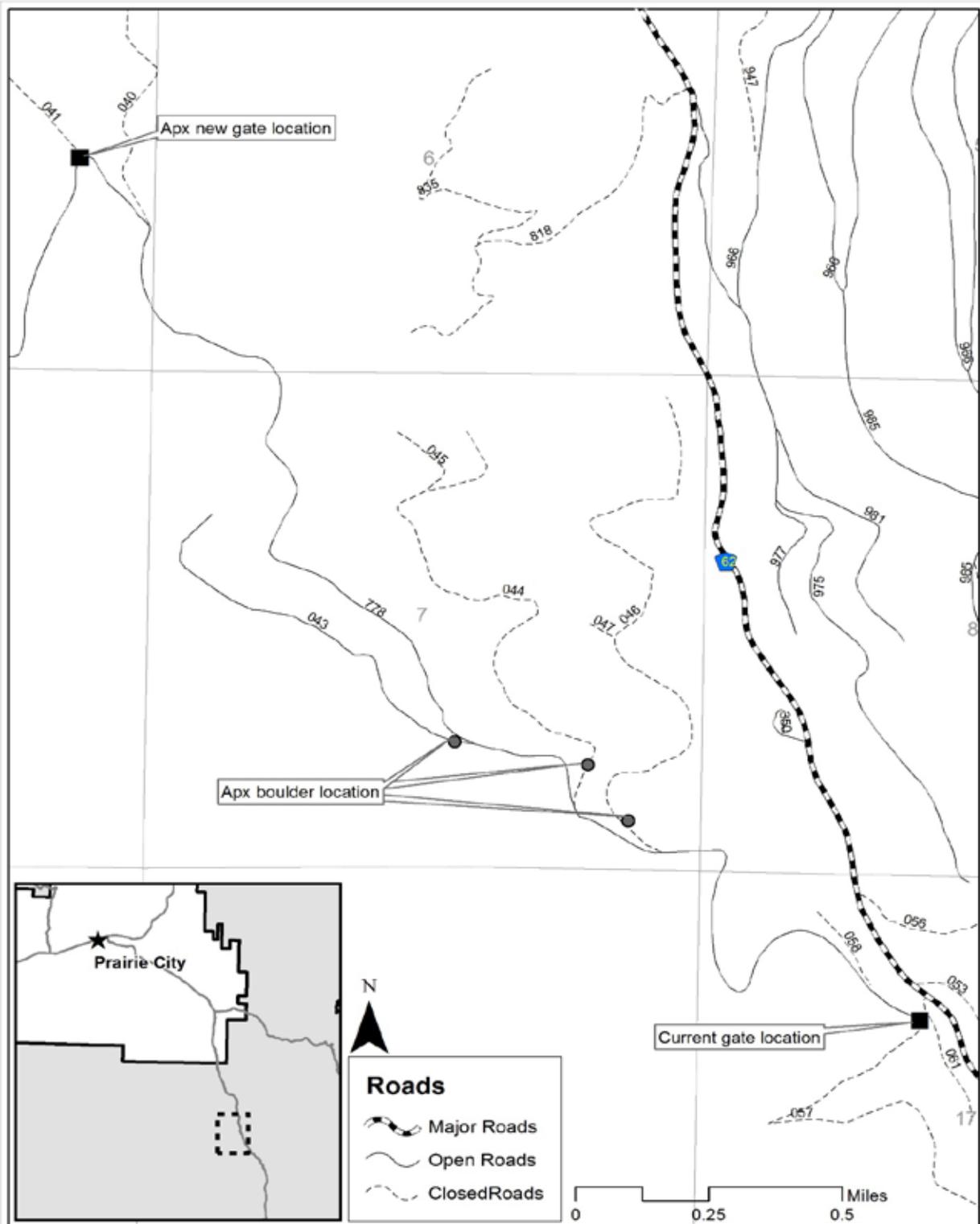
Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: The John Day Headwaters Access Management project is part of the 2014 land acquisition between Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Malheur National Forest. Previously, the project area was under private land ownership and closed near County Road 62 with two steel gate closures. The two existing closures, although still in place, are currently not effective and facilitate motorized access along County Road 62.

In order to protect the area’s vital natural resources for fish, wildlife, and recreationist who enjoy remote forest settings, the Prairie City Ranger District is proposing to close and maintain four motorized vehicle Forest Service roads that had been previously rarely used as private access roads. The district proposes to install a gate in a more suitable location and establish boulders (2 to 4 foot diameter) and/or earth berms at the intersections of three other roads. Each site would be accessed by tracked and/or wheeled vehicles resulting in ground disturbance. The proposed closures would still allow pedestrian access for the public to enjoy the unique resources in this area, while simultaneously protecting the John Day Watershed and providing security to local wildlife and fish.

Relocating the existing gates and installing boulders would protect a high priority area of the headwaters of the John Day River by preventing vehicle disturbance on a Forest Service road that intersects the river where bull trout redds have been documented.

Impacts to tribal resources: A cultural resource survey would be completed and any cultural or heritage concerns would be addressed and mitigated prior to implementation. Surveys in this area would occur during the summer of 2019.



Project Name: Little Crane Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Culvert Replacement

Program Area: Aquatics/Engineering

Project Contact: Hazel Wood, 541-820-3892, hwood@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Completed under the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Analysis (EA) Final Decision	The Decision Notice for the Aquatic Restoration Project was signed in 2015	2019

Location: Little Crane Creek is a major tributary to Crane Creek on the Prairie City Ranger District. It is located approximately 22 miles Southeast of Prairie City, Oregon (T.15S, R.351/2E, section 33).

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: The goal of this project is to improve aquatic organism passage and restore sediment transport processes to Little Crane Creek. A triple-barrel culvert on Forest Service Road 1660478 will be removed and replaced with a single span, open arch culvert.

Impacts to tribal resources: Replacement of the culvert will improve stream habitat for native salmonids such as bull trout and redband trout by increasing access to spawning habitat upstream of the migration barrier. Ground-disturbing activities would be limited to the road bed and existing culvert area. A cultural resource survey will be completed prior to implementation and all prehistoric resources will be avoided. In-stream work will be completed during ODFW’s in-water work period to minimize negative impacts to native trout.

Project Name: Marchbanks Diversion Relocation and Fish Screen Installation Project

Program Area: Aquatics

Project Contact: Jeff Nelson, 541-820-3818, jeffreynelson@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Completed under the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Analysis (EA) Final Decision	The Decision Notice for the Aquatic Restoration Project was signed in 2015	2019

Location: Wiwaanaytt Creek, Squaw Creek Subwatershed, T11S, R35½E, Sec 34; approximately 17 miles Northeast of Prairie City, Oregon.

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: The purpose of the Marchbanks Diversion Relocation & Fish Screen Installation project is to relocate the current point of diversion and install an appropriately sized headgate, water measuring device, and rotary fish screen to prevent entrainment of threatened Mid-Columbia River juvenile steelhead within the point of diversion on Wiwaanaytt Creek.

Impacts to tribal resources: Project would improve instream flows over current conditions and prevent entrainment of native salmonids into an existing diversion. A cultural resource survey will be completed prior to implementation and all prehistoric resources will be avoided. In-stream work will be completed during ODFW’s in-water work period to minimize negative impacts to native trout and other aquatic organisms.

Project Name: New Fence Construction: Cougar Fence

Program Area: Range

Project Contact: Jason Spence, 541-820-3849, jspence@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Completed under the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Analysis (EA) Final Decision	The Decision Notice for the Aquatic Restoration Project was signed in 2015	2019-2022

Location: T18S, R34E, S2 and 11, fence would be from the existing Cougar Riparian pasture fence, run in proximity and parallel to the road, and up to approximately Lee’s Creek, where it would be tied into the terrain along the creek.

Affected Counties: Grant and Harney

Brief Description of Project: The project aims to improve forest conditions by adjusting the area where livestock grazing is to be focused. The fence implementation will better distribute livestock by fencing livestock into the dryer, and subsequently less used, southwestern portion of the Cougar Pasture in the Bluebucket Allotment. The fence project will reduce the likelihood for livestock grazing to negatively impact wildlife forage availability.

Impacts to tribal resources: The project area is covered under the Blue Dollar Complex Allotment Management Planning NEPA. The project aim is to improve big game forage through better distribution of livestock grazing, as well as lessen livestock utilization on sensitive habitat. Cultural resources and aquatic habitat will be protected through fence design and implementation.

Project Name: Spring Development: Kit Kat Spring, Hankins Spring, Lost Camp Spring, Aspen Spring Extension, and Skookum Spring

Program Area: Range

Project Contact: Jason Spence, 541-820-3849, jspence@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Completed under the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Analysis (EA) Final Decision	The Decision Notice for the Aquatic Restoration Project was signed in 2015	2019-2021

Location: Kit Kat Spring: T16S, R36E, S33; 1.5 miles east of the privately owned land in Flag Prairie.

Hankins Spring: T16S, R35E, S10; ¼ mile south of the Little Crane Campground

Lost Camp Spring: T16S, R34E, S23; west of FS 14 road, off the 1410 road.

Aspen Spring Extension: T16S, R36E, S22; 21 miles southeast of Prairie City, OR

Skookum Spring: T17S, R34E, S35; 22 miles east of Silvies, OR.

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: These projects purpose is to decrease risk of damage to springs cause by livestock use. The projects aim to promote forest health by protecting natural spring sources, ensure range improvements are properly functioning, and encourage desirable riparian conditions including: increase productions of riparian obligate graminoid and woody species, and increase spring fed recharge of critical habitat fisheries.

Impacts to tribal resources: The project is anticipated to improve forage for big game. Protection of natural spring areas will improve forest conditions with springs not being trampled shut by livestock, and moving livestock watering locations off of the sensitive riparian area and into a less damage susceptible area. Wildlife friendly buck and pole fencing to be used to restrict spring fed areas from livestock grazing, without removing the habitat from available big game forage. Aquatic habitat and cultural resources would be protected under the design and implementation of the projects.

Project Name: Summit Priority 1 Restoration

Program Area: Fuel/Aquatics

Project Contact: Allen Taylor, 541-820-3864, allentaylor@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Completed under the Summit Project Environmental Analysis (EA) and Aquatics Environmental Analysis (EA) Checklist	The Decision Notice for the Aquatic Restoration Project was signed in 2015	2019 & 2020

Locations:

West Summit Creek & North Summit Creek, T15S, R35E, Sec 28 & 33; Wickiup Creek & Little Logan Creek, T16S, R34E, Sec 18 & 28; Summit Creek Subwatershed approximately 19 miles Southeast of Prairie City, Oregon.

Bosonberg Creek & Tributaries, T16S, R33½E, Sec 11, 12, & 14; Bosonberg Creek Subwatershed approximately 18 miles South of Prairie City, Oregon.

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: Meadow stream restoration on West Summit Creek, North Summit Creek, Wickiup Creek, Little Logan Creek, and Bosonberg Creek and its tributaries. Project area streams are habitat for bull trout, redband trout, and other native aquatic organisms. Due to past management activities, these streams have become incised with reduced floodplain inundation frequency and connectivity to extensive sidechannel networks. Many active headcuts are working their way through the drainage networks further disconnecting the streams from their floodplains through channel incision and meander cut-offs.

Meadow restoration treatments using hand and heavy equipment would halt active channel incision, elevate the water table to increase floodplain and sidechannel connectivity, reduce stream width/depth ratios, and increase stream shading along 7 miles of project streams identified. Approximately 2.3 miles of West Summit Creek and an unnamed tributary would

be restored in 2019, with the remaining streams restored in 2020.

Impacts to tribal resources: Meadow restoration would improve stream habitat for native salmonids such as bull trout and redband trout by enhancing complexity and quantity of spawning and rearing sites. A cultural resource survey will be completed prior to implementation and all prehistoric resources will be avoided. In-stream work will be completed during ODFW's in-water work period to minimize negative impacts to native trout and other aquatic organisms.

Project Name: Summit Project AOP Design 4 Culverts

Program Area: Aquatics/Engineering

Project Contact: Allen Taylor, 541-820-3864, allentaylor@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Completed under the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Analysis (EA) Final Decision	The Decision Notice for the Aquatic Restoration Project was signed in 2015	2020-2022

Location: Summit Creek, West Summit Creek, and North Summit Creek; Summit Creek Subwatershed; T15S, R35E, Sec 33 & 28; T16S, R34E, Sec 3. Approximately 19 miles Southeast of Prairie City, Oregon.

Affected Counties: Grant

Brief Description of Project: Complete engineering design work for replacement of four culverts in the Summit Creek Watershed to provide for aquatic organism passage. The fish passage barriers were identified in the Summit Large Landscape NEPA signed in 2017. The identified culverts have been evaluated for their capacity for passage and have been found to be inappropriately designed. Each culvert is unable to pass all life stages of resident fish, and all are located on Summit Creek and tributaries which are designated as Critical Habitat for bull trout. The culvert replacements once implemented would cumulatively restore passage and access to over 4.7 miles of aquatic habitat.

Impacts to tribal resources: Work would facilitate access of native salmonids to over 4.7 miles of stream habitat. Most work would occur within the previously disturbed footprint of the road crossings. A cultural resource survey will be completed prior to implementation and all prehistoric resources will be avoided. The timing of work during ODFW’s in-water work period would minimize impacts to native trout and other aquatic organisms. Work would minimize impacts to aquatic organisms from the transportation network while facilitating tribal access to culturally significant resources.

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Emigrant Creek Ranger District



Greta Smith, Acting District Ranger

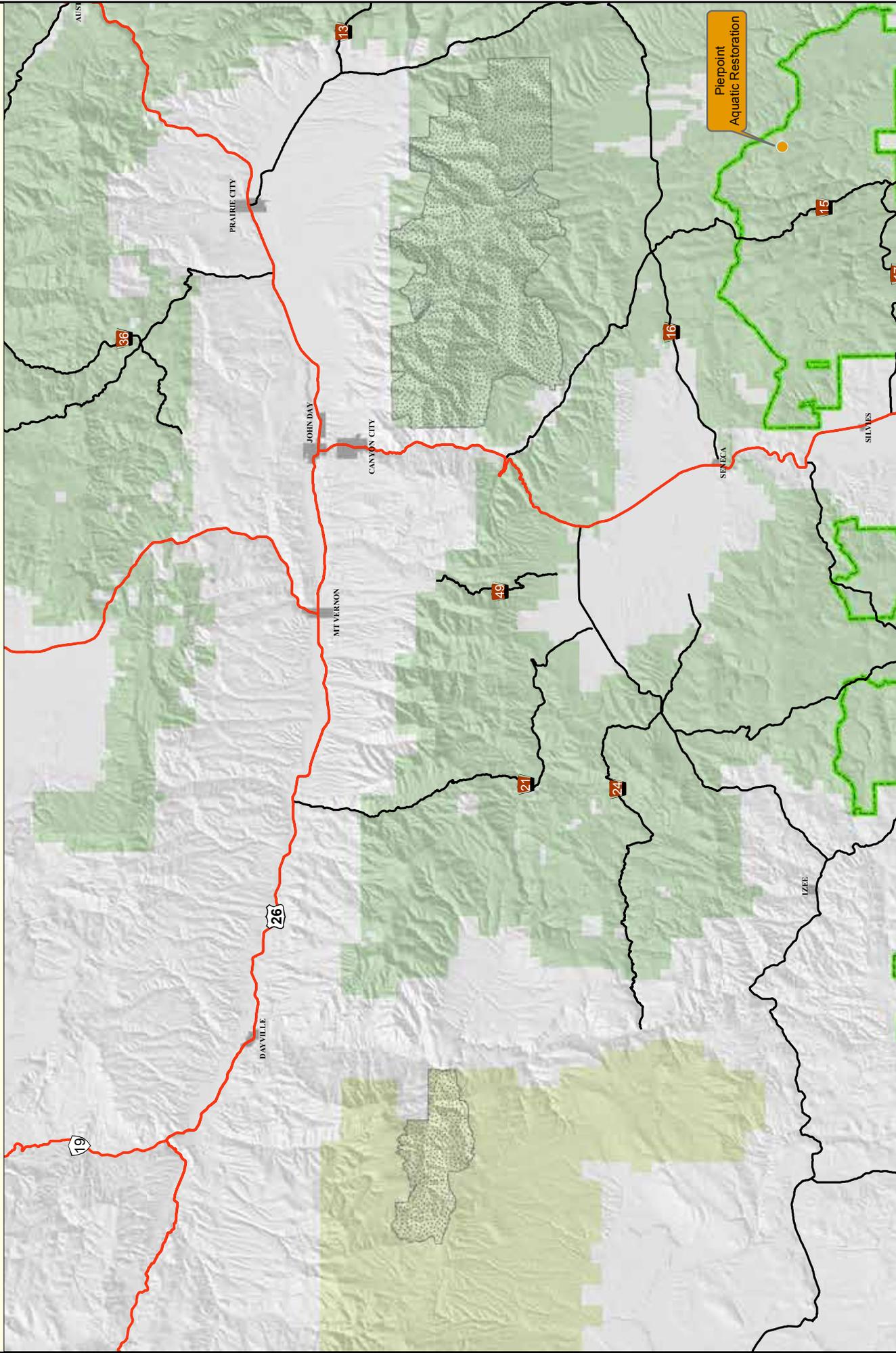
265 Highway 20 South

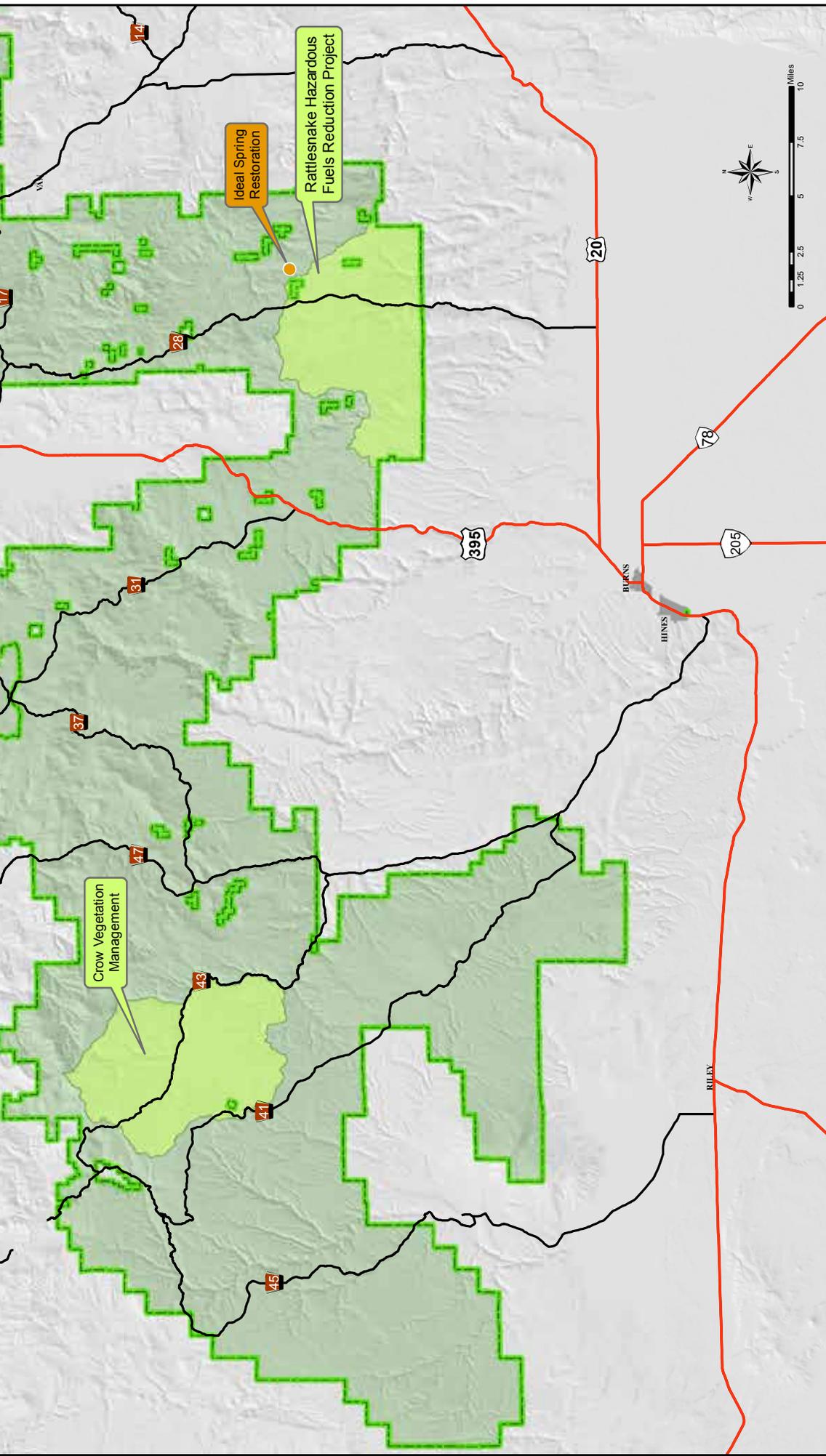
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*Malheur National Forest
Emigrant Creek Ranger District FY 2019 Program of Work*





-  Emigrant Creek Ranger District
-  Malheur National Forest
-  Adjacent National Forest
-  Wilderness
-  US or State Highway
-  Major Road
-  Aquatics and Watershed
-  Engineering - Roads
-  Lands and Minerals
-  Range
-  Recreation
-  Special Use Permits
-  Vegetation Management
-  Special Project

Emigrant Creek Ranger District Ongoing Project Update

(Presented in past year's POW packets)

Project Name	Project Status	NEPA process and timeline
Flat Vegetation Management Project	NEPA: Completed – Activities include commercial timber sales, pre-commercial thinning, and prescribed burning and road treatments.	Decision Notice (DN); signed February 2, 2018. Implementation ongoing.
Izee Allotment Management Plan	NEPA: Completed – Activities include fencing, spring developments, and riparian vegetation restoration.	Decision Notice (DN); decision signed August 14, 2015. Implementation started in 2016 and is on schedule to continue through 2020.
Wolf Project	NEPA: Completed – Activities include commercial timber sales, pre-commercial thinning, prescribed burning and road treatments	Decision Notice (DN); decision signed July 23, 2015. Implementation on-going.
Dove Project	NEPA: Completed – Scoping signed October 23, 2015. Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) out for 30-day Notice and Comment period September 2016.	Decision Notice (DN); decision signed March 30, 2017. Implementation on-going.
Central Malheur Allotment	NEPA: Completed - Activities include fencing, spring developments, juniper removal, and riparian vegetation restoration.	Decision Notice (DN); decision signed May 11, 2015. Implementation began in 2015 and is scheduled to continue through 2019.
Marshall Devine	NEPA: Completed - Activities include commercial timber sales, pre-commercial thinning, and prescribed burning and road treatments.	Decision Notice (DN); signed June 2012. Implementation on-going.
Dairy	NEPA: Completed - Activities include commercial timber sales, pre-commercial thinning, and road treatments.	Decision Notice (DN); signed January 2012. Implementation on-going.

Campground Tree Protection Project	NEPA: Completed. Spray legacy trees in campgrounds to protect these trees from beetle infestation. Occasional thinning of small diameter trees as well.	Letter to document decision; signed April 10, 2018. CE complete. Implementation on hold.
Soldier Project	NEPA: Completed. Farm Bill CE to reduce the risk and extent of, and increase resilience to insects and disease by density management.	Decision Memo (DM); signed December 30, 2017. Implementation ongoing.
Rattlesnake Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project	NEPA: Scoping complete. Estimated decision – summer 2019. Activities include commercial timber sales, pre-commercial thinning, and road treatments.	Decision Notice (DN); estimated decision July 2019. Implementation following decision.
Emigrant Creek District Wide Danger Tree Removal Project	NEPA: Complete. Removal of danger trees along arterial and collector roads, as well as campgrounds and administrative sites.	Decision Notice (DN); October 24, 2018. Implementation ongoing.
Calamity and Beaverdam Creeks Restoration Project	NEPA: Aquatics restoration checklist. Restore hydrologic processes in Calamity and Beaverdam Creeks.	Checklist completion estimate- September 2019. Implementation 2020.
Rattlesnake Creek Restoration Project	NEPA: Aquatics restoration checklist. Restore hydrologic processes in Rattlesnake Creek.	Checklist completion estimate- September 2019. Implementation 2020.
Cow Creek Restoration Project	NEPA: Aquatics restoration checklist. Restore hydrologic processes in Cow Creek.	Checklist completion estimate- September 2019. Implementation 2020.
Soldier Creek Restoration Project	NEPA: Aquatics restoration checklist. Restore hydrologic processes in Soldier Creek.	Checklist completion estimate- September 2019. Implementation 2020.
Recreation Site Improvements Project	NEPA: Categorical Exclusion (CE). Various campground improvement projects including trail realignments and updating signage.	Decision Memo (DM); estimated decision 2019. Implementation following decision.
Lonesome Aquatic Restoration Project	NEPA: Aquatics restoration checklist. Redevelop spring sources at 4 locations to improve livestock distribution.	Checklist complete. Implementation summer 2019.
Chokecherry Aquatic Restoration Project	NEPA: Aquatic restoration checklist. Restore chokecherry habitat, including planting chokecherries, and thinning and site prep for planting.	Checklist estimated completion April 2019. Implementation summer of 2019.

Project Name: Pierpont Aquatic Restoration Project

Program Area: Range

Project Contact: Noe Reyes, 541-573-4314, noerreyes@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Aquatic Restoration Project	Summer 2019	2019

Location: West Malheur Allotment, Emigrant Creek Ranger District.

Affected Counties: Grant County

Brief Description of Project: The purpose of this project is to redevelop the spring source to install a water trough in place of a stock pond for improved riparian health as well as to improve livestock distribution during the time frames that livestock are scheduled to graze. The spring source would also be fenced.

Project Name: Ideal Spring Restoration Project

Program Area: Range

Project Contact: Noe Reyes, 541-573-4314, noerreyes@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Aquatic Environmental Assessment (EA)	Summer 2019	2019

Location: Pine Creek Allotment, Emigrant Creek Ranger District

Affected Counties: Harney County

Brief Description of Project: The purpose of this project is to redevelop the spring source to replace a water trough that is currently located in the riparian area for improved riparian health as well as to improve livestock distribution during the time frames that livestock are scheduled to graze. The spring source would also be fenced.

Project Name: Crow Vegetation Management Project

Program Area:

- Integrated Vegetation Management – Fire, Fuels, Timber and Silviculture

Project Contact: Frank Heide, 541-573-4385, frankheide@fs.fed.us

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Decision Notice	July 2020	2020

Location: The project area is located northwest of the town of Burns, and southwest of John Day. Landmarks in the project area include Snow Mountain, Donnelly Butte, and Swain Prairie. Forest Road 43 bisects the project as well.

Affected Counties: Harney and Grant Counties

Brief Description of Project: Project activities could include timber harvest, pre-commercial thinning, prescribed burning, related road treatments, and possible watershed restoration activities.

Impacts to tribal resources: Proposed treatments generally would benefit first foods, including upland vegetation, wildlife and fisheries.