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The Mt. Hood National Forest is updating the land use allocations and standards and guidelines in Mt. Hood Land and Resource Management Plan (1990) for the **Bull Run Watershed** on the Zigzag Ranger District. These changes will make the Forest Plan consistent with the public laws governing the management of the watershed. Congress passed public laws in 1996 and 2001 that amended the Bull Run Act of 1977 to prohibit timber harvest within the watershed. These changes will be made with an administrative change under the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219).

### **Background**

The Bull Run Watershed Management Unit, including non-federal lands (approximately 4,400 acres), comprises approximately 95,400 acres. The goal of the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit is to: “Serve as the main water supply for the City of Portland and its service areas, with the principal objective of the production of ‘pure, clear, raw potable’ water of quantity and quality that is at least as good as that historically produced.” (Forest Plan, page 4-296). The Mt. Hood Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan)<sup>1</sup> reflects the goals of the Bull Run Watershed as established by Public Law 95-200 in 1977. This law created the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit and formally authorized joint authority for the City of Portland and the Forest Service to manage the Bull Run.

Since the Forest Plan was established in 1990, the Bull Run Act of 1977 has been amended two times by Public Law 104-208 in 1996 and Public Law 107-30 in 2001. The 1996 Oregon Resource Conservation Act (PL 104-208) prohibits timber harvest on all National Forest System (NFS) lands within the water supply drainage of the Bull Run River. The 2001 Little Sandy River Watershed Protection Act (PL 107-30) extended the timber harvest prohibitions to all remaining lands within the entire Bull Run Watershed Management Unit. This act also expanded the management unit boundary slightly on the south to include additional public lands in the Little Sandy River watershed.

As such, PL 95-200 as amended prohibits the cutting of trees on Federal lands in the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit, including any salvage activity. The Secretary may only allow the cutting of trees for the following reasons [PL 95-200, Section 2(b)(2)(B)]:

- i. for the protection or enhancement of water quality in the area; or
- ii. for the protection, enhancement, or maintenance of water quantity available from the area; or

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<sup>1</sup> The Mt. Hood Land and Resource Management Plan (U.S. Forest Service, 1990) guides all natural resource management activities and establishes management standards and guidelines for the Forest. It describes resource management practices, levels of resource production and management, and the availability and suitability of lands for resource management. Goals, objectives and desired future conditions of the management areas within the project area are discussed below in the description of land allocations.



- iii. for the construction, expansion, protection or maintenance of municipal water supply facilities; or
- iv. for the construction, expansion, protection or maintenance of facilities for the transmission of energy through and over the unit or previously authorized hydroelectric facilities or hydroelectric projects associated with municipal water supply facilities.

These public laws supersede the Forest Plan management direction and have been governing the management within the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit since their passage. The Forest Plan was never formally updated to reflect these changes. As a result, many of the land use allocations and corresponding standards and guidelines are incompatible with the public laws governing the management of the Bull Run Watershed.

### **Bull Run Watershed Management Unit Management Direction**

The Bull Run Watershed Management Unit in the Forest Plan (pages 4-296 to 4-317) is a conglomerate of Management Areas with a common primary resource management goal of providing water. The major characteristics, attributes, and physical features of the desired future condition for these lands are:

- Provides consistently excellent water quality (e.g., clarity, and chemistry);
- Human activities are limited and focused on reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfire and maintaining watershed stability and water quality;
- Predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment;
- Access limited to that necessary to accomplish the stated goal;
- No public entry without permit;
- No public recreation use;
- Clear, cold lakes and streams;
- Varied topographic relief, ranging from nearly level to very steep;
- Old growth forests predominate, with limited timber harvest areas and stands of younger trees; and,
- Disturbance (e.g. fire, windthrow, timber harvest, and channel scouring) is localized and infrequent.

The goals and desired future condition are compatible and complement the public laws for the watershed.

### **Bull Run Watershed Management Unit Land Use Allocations**

#### *Bull Run Land Use Allocations*

The designated land use allocations within the watershed include: DA1 Bull Run Physical Drainage; DA2 North Buffer – No Regulated Harvest; DA3 Research Natural Areas (RNA); DA8 Spotted Owl Habitat Area; DA9 Key Site Riparian; DA13 Bald Eagle Recovery Area; DB2 Scenic Viewshed; DB5 Pileated Woodpecker/Pine Martin Habitat Area; DB7 General Riparian Area; DB8 Earthflow; and, DC1 Timber Emphasis (see attached Mt. Hood Forest Plan Land Use Allocation map). The goals along with the standards and guideline related to timber management for many of these land use allocations are not consistent with the public laws that were passed after the Forest Plan was signed, as shown in the table below.

**Table 1:** Consistency Review of Existing Land Use Allocations with Current Public Laws

<b>Land Use Allocation</b>	<b>Timber Harvest Permitted</b>	<b>Timber Salvage Permitted</b>	<b>Consistency with Current Public Laws</b>
DA1 Bull Run Physical Drainage	Regulated timber harvest is prohibited (DA1-013). Unregulated timber harvest is allowed under specific circumstances (DA1-015).	Allowed if water quality standards are met (DA1-014)	Partial
DA2 North Buffer – No Regulated Harvest	Prohibited (DA2-001)	Timber salvage activities may occur (DA2-002)	Partial
DA3 Research Natural Area (RNA)	Prohibited (DA3-006)	Prohibited (DA3-006)	Yes
DA8 Spotted Owl Habitat Area	Regulated timber harvest prohibited (A8-021).	Prohibited (A8-022)	Yes
DA9 Key Site Riparian	Regulated timber harvest prohibited (A9-020). Timber harvest may occur to maintain or enhance riparian resource values (A9-021).	Allowed to protect or enhance riparian resource values (A9-023 & DA9-001).	Partial
DA13 Bald Eagle Recovery Area	Regulated timber harvest prohibited (A13-017). Timber harvest permitted to achieve bald eagle habitat objectives (A13-018).	Allowed if consistent with bald eagle habitat objectives (A13-019 & DA13-001).	Partial
DB2 Scenic Viewshed	Regulated timber harvest should occur (B2-034 & DB2-001).	Timber salvage activities may occur (B2-036 & DB2-001).	No
DB5 Pileated Woodpecker/Pine Martin Habitat Area	Regulated timber harvest should occur (B5-018 & DB5-003). Regulated timber harvest is prohibited within the physical drainage (DB5-001).	Allowed if sufficient quantity and quality of down woody material is retained (B5-019, DB5-002 & DB5-003).	No
DB7 General Riparian Area	Regulated timber harvest should occur within B7 inclusions within category B and C Management Areas (B7-028 & DB7-003). Regulated timber harvest is prohibited within the physical drainage (DB7-001).	Timber salvage activities may occur (B7-036, DB7-002 & DB7-003).	No
DB8 Earthflow	Regulated timber harvest should occur (B8-028 & DB8-001).	Permitted (DB8-001)	No
DC1 Timber Emphasis	Regulated timber harvest should be scheduled (C1-016 & DC1-002).	Permitted (DC1-002)	No

In order to remain consistent with the existing public laws, this administrative change would remove the following land use allocations: DA2, DA8, DA9, DA13, DB2, DB5, DB7, DB8 and DC1. These land use allocations would become DA1 lands, as described below. Although DA8 Spotted Owl Habitat Area is consistent with PL 95-200, this land use allocation has been replaced by Late-Successional Reserves under the Northwest Forest Plan, which amended the Forest Plan in 1994. As such, these land use allocations are no longer required and would become DA1 lands. DA2, DA8, DA9, DA13, DB2, DB5, DB7, DB8 and DC1 land use allocations would be removed from the Forest Plan.

Land use allocation DA3 Research Natural Area (RNA) would be retained and is consistent with the public laws. Three tracts are included within this Management Area: existing Bull Run RNA (9360 acres) and the two proposed RNAs – the Bull Run Addition (400 acres) and Big Bend Mountain (5,160 acres). All three areas are within the physical drainage of the Bull Run River. The designations of the RNA as proposed would not be changed at this time. The DA3 prescription predominates over the DA1 prescription.

#### *Other Land Use Allocations*

As previously discussed, the 2001 Little Sandy River Watershed Protection Act (PL 107-30) expanded the management unit boundary on the south. As such, other Forest Plan land use allocations are located within the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit. These land use allocations are B2-Scenic Viewshed, B6-Special Emphasis Watershed, B10-Deer and Elk Winter Range, and C1-Timber Emphasis (see attached Mt. Hood Forest Plan Land Use Allocation map).

- The goals of B2 lands are to provide attractive visually appealing forest scenery with a wide variety of natural appearing landscape features and to utilize vegetation management activities to create and maintain a long term desired landscape character (Forest Plan, page 4-218).
- The goals of B6 lands are to maintain or improve watershed, riparian, and aquatic habitat conditions and water quality for municipal uses and/or long term fish production; and, to maintain a healthy forest condition through a variety of timber management practices (Forest Plan, page 2-246).
- The goals of B10 lands are to provide high quality deer and elk habitat for use during most winters; to provide for stable population of black-tailed deer and Roosevelt Elk on the westside of the Cascades; to maintain a healthy forest condition through a variety of timber management practices; and, to provide dispersed summer and developed recreation opportunities (Forest Plan, page 2-272).
- The goals of C1 lands are to provide lumber, wood fiber and other forest products on a fully regulated basis, based on the capability and suitability of the lands and to enhance other resource uses and values that are compatible with timber production (Forest Plan, page 2-289).

The goals for these land use allocations and corresponding standards and guidelines are not compatible with the management direction for the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit (Forest

Plan, page 4-296 to 4-302), nor are they consistent with the current public laws. As such, these land use allocations within the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit would become DA1 lands.

The northern portion of the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit also includes a small amount of the A9-Key Site Riparian land use allocation. The goal of A9 lands are to maintain or enhance habitat and hydrologic conditions of selected riparian areas, notable for the exceptional diversity, high natural quality and key role in providing for the continued production of riparian dependent resource values (Forest Plan, page 4-179). Standard and guideline A9-020 prohibits regulated timber harvest and A9-022 prohibits salvage activities. This land use allocation is compatible with the management direction for the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit and consistent with the current public laws. As such, it would remain unchanged.

#### *Northwest Forest Plan Land Use Allocations*

The Bull Run Watershed Management Unit contained late-successional reserves, riparian reserves, administratively withdrawn, and matrix lands (see attached Northwest Forest Plan Land Use Allocation map).

- Late-successional reserves (LSRs) are designed to protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems. These areas serve as habitat for the late-successional and old-growth related species, including the northern spotted owl
- Riparian reserves include areas along rivers, streams, wetlands, ponds, lakes, and unstable or potentially unstable areas where the conservation of aquatic and riparian-dependent terrestrial resources receives primary emphasis. Riparian Reserves are designed to protect the health of the aquatic system and its dependent species.
- Administratively withdrawn areas are “identified in current forest and district plans or draft plan preferred alternatives and include recreational and visual areas, back country, and other areas not scheduled for timber harvest” (NWFP ROD, page 7). As such, administratively withdrawn areas are not scheduled for timber harvest.
- Matrix areas consist of Forest Service lands outside of designated areas (i.e., congressionally reserved areas, LSRs, adaptive management areas, administratively withdrawn areas, and riparian reserves).

Timber harvesting is permitted in LSRs, riparian reserves and matrix lands. As such, these land use allocations are not consistent with the current public laws. The Bull Run Act, as amended, changed these land use allocations within Bull Run Watershed Management Unit to Administratively Withdrawn. This administrative change does not change the Northwest Forest Plan land use allocations for the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit.

#### **Bull Run Watershed Management Standards and Guidelines**

The name of the land use allocation and corresponding standards and guidelines will be changed as outlined below in order to be fully consistent with PL 95-200, as amended. The ~~strickethough~~ language would be removed from the Forest Plan, and the language in *italics* would be added to the Forest Plan. All other standards and guidelines under DA1 would remain and would be applicable to the entire Bull Run Watershed Management Unit.

DA1 Bull Run ~~Physical Drainage~~ Watershed Management Unit

DA1-014: Unregulated timber harvest may be permitted only if water quality standards are met. *The cutting of timber is only allowed for the following reasons as defined in Public Law 95-200: The following timber harvest priorities shall apply:*

- a. The protection or enhancement of water quality; or,*
- b. The protection, enhancement, or maintenance of water quantity available; or,*
- c. The construction, expansion, protection or maintenance of municipal water supply facilities; or,*
- d. The construction, expansion, protection or maintenance of facilities for the transmission of energy through and over the unit or previously authorized hydroelectric facilities or hydroelectric projects associated with municipal water supply facilities.*
- ~~a. Priority 1: Timber harvesting necessary to resolve immediate problems, such as stream cleanup, blowdown, insect and disease outbreaks, and serious fire hazard; or to accommodate water development projects such as reservoirs, pipelines, and roads.~~
- ~~b. Priority 2: Timber harvesting needed to address potential long range problems which require treatment. These potential problems include flood, landslides, and wildfire. Treatment of these long term problems will be designed to avoid short term water quality degradation.~~
- ~~c. Priority 3: Timber harvesting to utilize timber resource where research results and experience has demonstrated that water quality will not be substantially affected.~~

~~DA1-018 & DA1-019: Timber harvest should be limited to stable and low sensitivity sites. Only Priority 1 timber harvest may occur on geologically unstable sites (e.g. earthflows and landslides) and steep (e.g. greater than 50 percent slopes) and erodible sites, i.e. priority 2 and 3 timber harvest are prohibited.~~

~~DA1-020 & DA1-021: Clearcut harvest units may occur and should not exceed 25 acres in size.~~

~~DA1-022 & DA1-023: Stands adjacent to plantations should not be harvested until the plantation site achieves preharvested hydrological conditions. Priority 1 harvest activities are an exception.~~

Standard and Guideline DA2-005 would be retained as Standard and Guideline DA1-038 as listed below.

DA1-038 ~~DA2-005~~: Management activities shall achieve a visual quality objective of Retention as viewed from Columbia Wilderness trails.

All other standards and guidelines associated with land use allocations DA2, DA8, DA9, DA13, DB2, DB5, DB7, DB8 and DC1 would be removed from the Forest Plan. The D and DA3 standards and guidelines would be retained.

### **Administrative Change**

The changes will be made using an administrative change under the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219). An administrative change (36 CFR 219.13(c)) is any change to a plan that is not a plan amendment or plan revision. “Administrative changes include corrections of clerical errors to any part of the plan, conformance of the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements, or changes to other content in the plan” (§219.13). This administrative change is being made to conform to the statutory requirements of the Oregon Resource Conservation Act (PL 104-208) and the Little Sandy River Watershed Protection Act (PL 107-30). This change would make the Forest Plan, as amended, fully consistent with the Bull Run Act as amended by PL 104-208 and PL 107-30.

The changes that would be made to the Mt. Hood Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) include the following.

- Bull Run Watershed Management Unit would include DA1, DA3 and A9 lands. All lands not currently within these land use allocations would become DA1 lands (see attached Updated Mt. Hood Forest Plan Land Use Allocation map).
- All lands within the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit would remain administratively withdrawn under the Northwest Forest Plan.
- The DA2, DA8, DA9, DA13, DB2, DB5, DB7, DB8 and DC1 land use allocations would be removed.
- The title of the DA1 land use allocation would become DA1 Bull Run Watershed Management Unit.
- Standard and Guideline DA1-014 would be changed to reflect the language within the Bull Run Act.
- Standard and Guideline DA2-005 would be retained as Standard and Guideline DA1-038.
- Standards and Guidelines DA1-018 through DA1-023 would be removed. All standards and guidelines, except DA2-015, associated with land use allocations DA2, DA8, DA9, DA13, DB2, DB5, DB7, DB8 and DC1 would be removed.

As required by the 2012 Planning Rule, an administrative change made outside of the process for plan revision or amendment may be made only after notice to the public of the intended change and consideration of public comment (§ 219.16(c)(6)). We would invite your comments on these proposed administrative changes. These documents are also available electronically at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mthood/landmanagement/planning>.

### **Submitting Comments**

Comments may be submitted to [comments-pacificnorthwest-mthood-zigzag@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-mthood-zigzag@fs.fed.us) in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc). Written comments may be sent to:

Leanne Veldhuis  
Zigzag Ranger District  
70220 E. Hwy 26  
Zigzag, OR 97049

Comments may also be submitted by FAX at: (503) 622-5622. The office business hours for those who want to submit hand-delivered comments are: 7:45AM to 12:00PM and 1:00PM to

4:30PM Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project, available for public inspection, and released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

If you have any questions concerning this administrative change, please contact Jennie O'Connor Card at (406) 522-2537 or [jennieoconnorcard@fs.fed.us](mailto:jennieoconnorcard@fs.fed.us) or Leanne Veldhuis at (503) 622-2030 or [lveldhuis@fs.fed.us](mailto:lveldhuis@fs.fed.us). Thank you for your interest and participation in this process.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Lisa A. Northrop*

LISA A. NORTHROP  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Bill Westbrook, Vicky Peterson, Leanne Veldhuis, Brad Goehring, Jennie O'Connor Card, Jennifer Wade, MaryEllen Fitzgerald