

LATE-SUCCESSIONAL RESERVE ASSESSMENT



*Oregon Coast
Province*

*-Southern
Portion-*

(RO267,RO268)

Version 1. ²⁴/₇
November 2010

This Assessment was done in cooperation with Bureau of Land Management - Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, and Coos Bay Districts and the Siuslaw National Forest

LSR Assessment CoreTeam Members:

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A special thanks to many other specialists in the Bureau of Land Management and the Siuslaw National Forest and scientists from the Pacific Northwest Research Station for their review of data and concepts that were developed for this assessment and who provided valuable critique of the assessment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Late-Successional Reserve Assessment
Oregon Coast Province - Southern Portion (RO267, RO268)

The Siuslaw National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management, Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay and Roseburg Districts participated jointly in the assessment of Late-Successional Reserves (LSRs) in the Oregon Coast Province. The assessment covered two designated LSRs totaling about 550,000 acres. The assessment will facilitate implementation of appropriate management activities and assure that activities further the objectives of LSRs.

The assessment provides an understanding of the environmental factors, such as climate and geology, that underlie the potential types of vegetation which develop in the area. In addition, the disturbance processes, both natural and human influenced, which have affected the arrangement and quantity of vegetation are described.

Plant and animal species adapt to the type and arrangement of vegetation on the landscape. The species that occupy or have occupied this landscape in the past are described and the ability of the LSRs to support those species is evaluated. Currently 46% of the LSR is in a mature forest condition. The distribution of that forest, however, has been fragmented and 18% is in blocks sufficient to function as suitable habitat for late-successional species.

Through management, the existing condition of vegetation on the landscape can be directed so that late-successional characteristics can be attained. Ecological principals which guide activities are highlighted and include:

- developing prescriptions which mimic the composition and structure of forests at different ages
- insuring that prescriptions "keep all the pieces" so that critical components of the forest ecosystem are intact
- utilizing natural successional pathways when developing prescriptions

The LSR assessment identified the need to secure the "best" habitat areas first before devoting limited funding and resources in more degraded areas. To accomplish this objective, a landscape plan was developed which assists land managers in the determination of priority areas for treatment.

Regional Ecosystem Office

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 13, 2006

TO: Forest Supervisor, Siuslaw National Forest

FROM: /s/Anne Badgley, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Clarification of Memo #940 and Memo # 1058

This letter concerns two memos issued from this office which are in need of clarification. The Regional Ecosystem Office memos, #940 (dated June 6, 1997) and # 1058 (dated December 17, 1997) each contain the following paragraph:

“Projects meeting the criteria in the REO memoranda “REO Review Exemption Criteria” (dated April 20, 1995) and “Criteria to Exempt Specific Silvicultural Activities in Late-Successional Reserves and Managed Late-Successional Areas from Regional Ecosystem Office Review” (July 9, 1996 and amended September 30) continue to be exempted from the REO review. In addition, silvicultural activities described on, and consistent with the criteria listed on, Table 7 (as supplemented by April 22, 1997 documentation) and consistent with NFP S&Gs are exempt from subsequent project-level REO review.”

Through this letter, this paragraph in both memos is corrected with the following change noted in bold.

*“Projects meeting the criteria in the REO memoranda “REO Review Exemption Criteria” (dated April 20, 1995) and “Criteria to Exempt Specific Silvicultural Activities in Late-Successional Reserves and Managed Late-Successional Areas from Regional Ecosystem Office Review” (July 9, 1996 and amended September 30) continue to be exempted from the REO review. **Alternatively**, silvicultural activities described on, and consistent with the criteria listed on, Table 7 (as supplemented by April 22, 1997 documentation) and consistent with NFP S&Gs are exempt from subsequent project-level REO review.”*

Projects need to meet either the REO exemption memo criteria or the Late-Successional Reserve Assessment criteria that has been reviewed by the REO, but do not need to meet both.

If you have any questions, please contact Shawne Mohoric, 503-808-2175.

cc: Shawne Mohoric, Region 6, FS (LSR Workgroup)
Frank Davis, Region 6, Siuslaw NF

Regional Ecosystem Office

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Memorandum

Date: June 6, 1997

To: Robert W. Williams, Regional Forester, Region 6, Forest Service
Elaine Y. Zielinski, State Director, Bureau of Land Management OR/WA

From: Donald R. Knowles, Executive Director

Subject: Regional Ecosystem Office Review of the Oregon Coast Province (Southern Portion) Late-Successional Reserve (RO267 & RO268) Assessment

Summary

The Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) and the interagency Late-Successional Reserve Work Group have reviewed the Oregon Coast Province (Southern Portion) Late-Successional Reserve Assessment (LSRA). The REO finds that the LSRA, as supplemented by an April 22 LSRA revision document, provides a sufficient framework and context for future projects and activities within the LSR. Future silvicultural activities described in the supplemented LSRA (as discussed below) that meet its criteria and objectives and that are consistent with the Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) in the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) are exempted from subsequent project-level REO review.

Basis for the Review

Under the S&Gs for the NFP, a management assessment should be prepared for each large LSR (or group of smaller LSRs) before habitat manipulation activities are designed and implemented. As stated in the S&Gs, these assessments are subject to the REO review. The REO review focuses on the following:

1. The review considers whether the assessment contains sufficient information and analysis to provide a framework and context for making future decisions on projects and activities. The eight specific subject areas that an assessment should generally include are found in the NFP (S&Gs, page C-11). The REO may find that the assessment contains sufficient information or may identify topics or areas for which additional information, detail, or clarity is needed. The findings of the review are provided to the agency or agencies submitting the assessment.

2. The review considers potential treatment criteria and treatment areas addressed in the LSRA. When treatment criteria are clearly described and their relationship to achieving desired late-successional conditions are also clear, subsequent projects and activities within the LSR(s) may be exempted from the REO review, provided they are consistent with the LSRA criteria and NFP S&Gs. The REO authority for developing criteria to exempt these actions is found in the S&Gs (pages C-12, C-13, and C-18).

Scope of the Assessment and Description of the Assessment Area

The REO reviewed the LSRA in light of the eight subject areas identified in the NFP S&Gs (page C-11) and sought additional information regarding seven subject areas. Supplemental information was submitted to the REO on April 22. The REO finds the LSRA, as amended, provides a sufficient framework and context for making future decisions on projects and activities within the LSR.

The LSRA addresses two large LSRs on BLM and National Forest System lands totaling 546,252 acres, plus references 4 additional 100-acre LSRs. These LSRs are in the southern half of the Oregon Coast Province. This assessment considers the LSR in the context of surrounding LSRs, including LSR connectivity across the Willamette Valley to the east.

Review of the Assessment

The REO reviewed the assessment's description of the process to be used, and elements to be included in the desired future conditions (DFC), current conditions, objectives, treatment criteria, possible treatments, and identified projects including the location of forest types to which they may be applied. The assessment provides a clear framework for designing future actions. The descriptions of current conditions, disturbance processes, and successional pathways were particularly illustrative in providing a framework for future interdisciplinary teams to identify specific management needs and prescriptions.

Projects meeting the criteria in the REO memoranda "REO Review Exemption Criteria" (dated April 20, 1995) and "Criteria to Exempt Specific Silvicultural Activities in Late-Successional Reserves and Managed Late-Successional Areas from Regional Ecosystem Office Review" (July 9, 1996 and amended September 30) continue to be exempted from the REO review. In addition, silvicultural activities described on, and consistent with the criteria listed on, Table 7 (as supplemented by April 22, 1997 documentation) and consistent with NFP S&Gs are exempt from subsequent project-level REO review. These activities include precommercial thinning, commercial thinning, salvage, conifer recruitment in Riparian Reserves, treating certain *Phellinus* risk, snag recruitment, soil improvement, and conversion of inappropriate species. Other risk treatments, such as those for Douglas-fir bark beetle risk, and treatments not meeting criteria described within the LSRA, remain subject to REO review.

The REO is working with the Research and Monitoring Committee to ensure that projects within LSRs, including projects exempted from the REO review, are considered in the development of the effectiveness, implementation, and validation monitoring programs. We also expect the local

units to continue their long-standing partnership with key researchers regarding management of late-successional stands, particularly in the area of young-stand management.

Conclusions

Based on documentation found in the LSRA, the REO finds that the LSRA provides a sufficient framework and context for future projects and activities within the LSR. As identified above, silvicultural activities and specific projects identified in amended Table 7 and further described in the LSRA which are consistent with the NFP S&Gs and the treatment criteria identified in the assessment are exempted from project-level REO review.

cc:

REO, RIEC

Arnie Holden, R-6

Karen Bennett, Siuslaw NF

Jim Furnish, Siuslaw Forest Supervisor

Van Manning, Salem District Manager

Ed Shepard, Coos Bay District Manager

Judy Nelson, Eugene District Manager

Cary Osterhaus, Roseburg District Manager

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