



United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

# **North Clack Integrated Resource Project**

## **Cultural Resource Inventory**

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for:  
Clackamas River Ranger District  
Mt. Hood National Forest

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## Introduction

The following report provides a detailed summary of the heritage resources survey completed for the North Clack Integrated Resource Project. The Clackamas River Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest is proposing to treat approximately 5,086 acres within the 25,000 acres in the North Clack project area. These activities include the need to improve forest health, diversity, and productivity, enhance aquatic/riparian habitat, and transportation system management within the project area.

Currently, the project area contains several stand types and conditions with varying age ranges. The second-growth fire-originated stands are 60 to 70 years of age and some are 100 to 120 years old depending on fire burn patterns. There are also some more traditional looking plantations that range from 25 to 70 years-of-age. Approximately 5,000 acres of fire-originated stands have been thinned in the past while several thousand acres have never been thinned. Most of these stands are currently in a condition where thinning treatments or regeneration harvest treatments may be appropriate to move stands toward the desired conditions which are unique for each land allocation.

Several sites are situated within the general project location but are situated in areas where there are no proposed actions, or they are located outside of proposed treatment areas. These sites include temporary gathering camps (665NA006, 665NA093, 665EA113, 665NA135), peeled cedar trees (665SN108, 665NA121), historic camps (665EA020, 665EA029, 665EA060, 665EA005), the remains of a historic campground (665EA022), FS guard station or historic lookout remains (665EA137, 665EA076), Early archaic lithic scatters (665NA019, 665NA091, 665NA115, 665NA118, 665NA124, 665NA125, and 665NA121), lithic isolates (665EA176,

665SN175, and 665SN193), Historic animal traps (665NA117 and 665EA126) Historic trail (665NA012), Historic railroad remains (665EA014), and historic mining camps 9665EA024 and 665EA025). No Protective measures are required or recommended for resources outside treatment areas.

As a result of the survey and site revisits, four archaeological properties were determined to be within or adjacent to proposed treatment areas. These properties include a historic railroad grade and skid roads 665EA134, a prehistoric camp 665NA131, and an Early Archaic lithic scatter 9665NA023. The historic rail road grade has been significantly altered from its historic use and is not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No Protective measures are required or recommended for ineligible sites. Prehistoric camp 665NA131 could not be relocated for this project. It is believed that the site has completely deteriorated. No protective measures are required or recommended for sites that cannot be relocated. The last site is a lithic scatter that is not considered eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. No protective measures are required or recommended for ineligible sites.

No existing or new historic site were recorded during this assessment. Sites within one mile of the project area are not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. No NRHP eligible sites are located within the APE for this project. As a result, this project would have no effect on any NRHP eligible sites.

It has been determined that the project can proceed as proposed with *no effect* to heritage resources.

Heritage resource survey documents and site documentation records containing site location information are exempt from public disclosure under provisions set forth in the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa). This report contains no confidential or sensitive information; site documentation has been included as a separate appendices which are unavailable to the general public.

## Description of Proposed Project

### Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the North Clackamas Integrated Resource Project is to provide improve forest conditions, provide wood products, manage recreation, enhance aquatic/riparian habitat, manage wildlife habitats, reduce fire hazards, and make changes to the transportation system within the project area. This [web link](https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/105362_FSPLT3_4630683.pdf)<sup>1</sup> has a detailed description of the project's purpose and need.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/105362\\_FSPLT3\\_4630683.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/105362_FSPLT3_4630683.pdf)

**Table 1 - Proposed Actions for Vegetation Treatment**

Purpose & Need	Proposed Action	Acres	Notes
Improve Forest Health, Growth and Diversity while Providing Forest Products	Variable-density thinning with Skips and Gaps	4,532	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,080 acres in Matrix, with two acre gaps and heavy thins for forage enhancement</li> <li>• 191 acres in LSR</li> <li>• 934 acres in Riparian Reserves</li> <li>• 202 acres of Matrix with an emphasis of improving owl habitat in the home range</li> <li>• 88 acres of thinning with a huckleberry enhancement emphasis</li> <li>• 985 acres of young-stand thinning and brushing</li> <li>• 52 acres of young-stand thinning and brushing and the removal trees in diseased areas followed by planting</li> </ul>
Improve Owl Habitat	Create gaps	60	Cut and leave trees in small gaps to improving owl habitat in Matrix
Provide Forest Products and Create Early-Seral Habitat while Providing Forest Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regeneration Harvest with Reserves</li> <li>• Site Preparation and Planting</li> </ul>	255 <sup>2</sup>	In Matrix,
Enhance Forage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meadow Burn</li> </ul>	2	
Fire Hazard Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burning</li> <li>• Fuel Break</li> </ul>	541	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150 acres of piling and burning of slash along Road 4610 and property lines</li> <li>• 136 acres of under burning of thinned stands</li> <li>• 255 acres of under burning and grapple piling in regeneration harvest units</li> </ul>

The proposed vegetation management activities necessitate the repair and maintenance of some of the roads within the project area. Although many of these roads are existing roads within the Mt. Hood National Forest transportation system, there is a need for the creation of new roads that are not part of the current road network. These needs are considered connected actions associated with the project’s vegetation management activities.

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<sup>2</sup> Alternative 2 has the same quantity of total acres with more regeneration harvest and less thinning.

**Table 2 - Summary of transportation management proposed action**

Purpose & Need	Proposed Action	Miles	Notes
Manage the Road System to Allow for Safe Timber Hauling	Maintain and Repair Forest Service System Roads	63	The intensity of work varies based on location and the work recently accomplished by the Forest and other operators.
Provide Access for Vegetation Management	Construct and Reconstruct Temporary Roads	19.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14.4 miles of new road construction in locations where no road alignment previously existed. (1.55 mi of this is needed due to OHV conversion of system roads to trails)</li> <li>• 3.6 miles of existing road alignment reconstruction on road alignments that were once temporary roads.(0.63 mi of this is needed due to OHV conversion of system roads to trails)</li> <li>• 1.5 miles of existing road alignment reconstruction on road alignments that were once system roads.(1.1 mi of this was decommissioned by OHV plan)</li> </ul>
Reduce Resource Risks and Maintenance Costs Associated with Forest Service System Roads	Decommission and Close Forest Service System Roads	41.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 miles of active and passive decommissioning of roads no longer needed.</li> <li>• 26.2 miles of road closures that remain on the System.</li> <li>• 8 miles of stormproofing of system roads not used for haul that remain on the System (4610,4610180)</li> </ul>
Reduce Resource Risks and Maintenance Costs Associated with Forest Service System Roads	Convert Road to Non-Motorized Trail	1.2	4611 Remove culverts, retain a trail tread
Provide Access for Vegetation Management	Return Former Forest Service System Road Back to the System	1.2	4610115
Reduce Resource Impacts Associated with Unauthorized OHV Routes	Rehabilitate Unauthorized OHV routes	7.1	

## Project Area

The North Clack project area is located along the western edge of the Clackamas River Ranger District. It includes parts of the Middle Clackamas Watershed. It is bounded by the Clackamas River on the southwest, Roaring River on the southeast, by the Forest boundary on the northwest, and the watershed boundary on the northeast. This project area is approximately 25,000 acres in size and is located in Clackamas County, Oregon. Within the project area the Forest has established an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) management area at LaDee Flat.

## Environmental Description

This project area encompasses 25,000 acres with approximately 5,086 acres of treatments on the Clackamas River Ranger District on the Mount Hood National Forest in Clackamas County, Oregon. Elevation in the project area ranges from 660 feet to approximately 4,770 feet on the Western slope of the Cascade Range. The plant association for this project is in the western hemlock zone. The overstory is predominantly Douglas-fir, Pacific silver-fir, western hemlock, and western red cedar. The understory consists of salal, huckleberry, rhododendron, Oregon grape, devil's club, and vine maple. Riparian areas are predominantly a mixed conifer type.

The soils in the project area have formed in deep glacial till deposits that are not compacted and are characterized by large rounded stones and boulders. Precipitation ranges from 70 inches to 100 inches annually.

## Methodology

The heritage resource survey strategy on the Mount Hood National Forest is designed to locate and document historic and prehistoric resources on these federal lands. Varying levels of reconnaissance coverage are applied to different parts of the landscape based on the likelihood for locating these resources.

A reevaluation of the Mt. Hood inventory methods (Burtchard and Keeler 1994) determined that reconnaissance survey intensity should be dependent on slope, distance to water, and the presence of specific resources or physiographic landforms. The information gained from documenting these resources can be used to determine land use patterns and strategies. It has been demonstrated from past heritage resource surveys of plantations that additional surveys of these intensively-treated areas would not contribute significantly to our understanding of late historic period logging methods.

It has also been shown that the intensive treatment of these areas has likely obliterated any earlier historic artifacts or features. Just as Burtchard refined the reconnaissance survey strategy for cultural resources on the Mt. Hood, the strategy should be further refined as additional information is gathered. Continued surveys of most of the stands highly disturbed by logging or fire would not be useful from a cultural resource perspective.

However, the potential for noteworthy cultural remains within these stands does exist. Archival sources such as historic maps, ethnographic reports, aerial photographs, and site records may reveal the presence of significant archaeological resources. Ridges and saddles with slopes less than 20% offer a very high likelihood for cultural materials. Rock outcrops, talus slopes, and rubble fields were likely avoided during previous logging activities and continue to present outstanding opportunities for the presence of cultural remains. Elevated areas above or adjacent to streams, stream terraces, and alluvial banks also contain environmental features optimal for the presence of archaeological properties. However, stands situated on gently-rolling terrain with slopes between 3 and 20% and are situated a significant distance from water offer little opportunity for locating and documenting important cultural materials.

A modified survey strategy was employed for this project. Units situated on gently-rolling terrain with slopes between 3 and 20% and are not located near streams were not surveyed. All other high-probability areas were surveyed with pedestrian transects spaced 20 to 25 meters apart. Slopes over 20% are considered to have a low potential for the presence of cultural materials and were not surveyed. Areas identified as Limited Entry due to dense vegetation were not surveyed. Previously documented sites within treatment areas were revisited. Areas where archival sources indicate a high likelihood for site potential were intensively surveyed with transects spaced 10 to 15 meters apart. Temporary roads proposed for construction outside of treatment units were surveyed according to slope. Roads scheduled for decommissioning outside of treatment units were surveyed according to slope.

## Cumulative Effects

For heritage resources, any effects are limited to site-specific locations. Any cumulative effects would also be limited to heritage resources situated within proposed areas of ground disturbance. There are no foreseeable projects inside proposed treatment areas to include in a cumulative effects analysis. Because this project would have no effect on heritage resources eligible for the NRHP, there would be no cumulative effects to heritage resources as a result of implementing any of the Proposed Actions.

## Effects Determination

The only heritage resources within the proposed project area were a historic railroad grade, a historic camp, and a lithic scatter. These three sites were previously considered to be ineligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No protective measures are required or recommended for ineligible sites. Although the new ground disturbance would occur, no known cultural resources would be impacted by this project. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the agency has conducted an assessment of adverse effects (36CFR 800.5) and determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for a "No Historic Properties Affected" determination and is subject to stipulation III.B.2 of the 2004 Cultural Resource Programmatic Agreement.

## Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines

The Mount Hood National Forest Land and Resource Plan (LRMP) was used for this project and applicable standards were met.

FW-609 & FW-610

*All proposed projects which could affect a cultural resource shall be assessed for their effect on National Register, eligible, or unevaluated properties. Assessments shall use the criteria of “effect and adverse effect” (36CFR 800.9). Projects that include all Federally funded undertakings, and undertakings requiring federal permits (36 CFR 800.9 (a)(b)).*

## Other Guidance

Environmental Effects Direction for surveying for, protecting, documenting effects and consulting on heritage resources comes from various laws, regulations and policy.

The most important of which are:

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended

This Act requires Federal agencies to consult with American Indian Tribes, state and local groups before nonrenewable cultural resources, such as archaeological and historic structures, are damaged or destroyed. Section 106 of this act requires federal agencies to review the effects project proposals may have on the cultural resources in the analysis area.

### 36 CFR Part 800 – Protection of Historic Properties

800.1 Purposes. (a) Purposes of the section 106 process. Section 106 of the National

Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and afford the Council a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. The procedures in this part define how Federal agencies meet these statutory responsibilities. The section 106 process seeks to accommodate historic preservation through consultation among the agency official and other parties with an interest in the effects of the undertaking on historic properties, commencing at the early stages of project planning. The goal of consultation is to identify historic properties potentially affected by the undertaking, assess its effects and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties.

800.5 Assessment of Adverse Effects. (1) Criteria of adverse effect. An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property’s location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Consideration shall be given to all qualifying characteristics of a historic

property, including those that may have been identified subsequent to the original evaluation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Adverse effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the undertaking that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance or be cumulative.

When applying the criteria of effect and adverse effect, there are three possible findings:

- No Effect - There is no effect of any kind, neither harmful nor beneficial, on the historic property.
- No Adverse Effect - There could be an effect, but the effect would not be harmful to those characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register.
- Adverse Effect - There could be an effect, and that effect could harm characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register.

If any archaeological properties are discovered as a result of project implementation, all activities in the vicinity of the property would cease until a qualified archaeologist can inspect and document the discovery and determine an appropriate course of action. If the resource cannot be avoided, the resource shall be evaluated for NRHP eligibility and the appropriate mitigation measures would be determined in consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Following the design guidelines, the project may proceed with a determination of no historic properties affected.

*/S/ Debbie Ortiz*

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