Dry Beard Project Scoping Record

Why Here and Now?

The Dry Beard project area is approximately 10,697 acres, located in the Headwaters North Santiam Watershed and the Upper North Santiam Watershed, approximately 3 miles south of the town of Detroit Oregon in Linn County. The legal description of the area is T10S, R5E, Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 35, 36, T10S, R6E, Sections 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33. Ownership within the project boundary is split between federal and private ownership. Approximately 7,799 acres of the 10,697 acre project area is owned by the US Forest Service. Another 844 acres is owned by the Army Corp of Engineers which has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the Forest Service to manage the forest on that land. The rest of the ownership within the project area is by private timber companies, totaling 2,053 acres.

For this project, timber harvest is proposed in densely stocked second growth stands generally ranging in age from 35 to 78 years old, and includes stands within Riparian Reserves. The proposed stands range in mid-point elevation from 2,000 feet to 3,700. The stands are showing signs of decreased growth and vigor from inter-tree competition for sunlight, water, and nutrients.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this project is to (1) Contribute to a predictable, sustainable supply of timber and other forest products to maintain the stability of local and regional economies; (2) Actively manage stands to improve stand conditions, density, diversity, and structure; (3) Sustainably manage the network of road systems in the project area and (4) Replace or repair the Idanha Bridge.

Contribute to a predictable, sustainable supply of timber and other forest products to maintain the stability of local and regional economies - The proposed project is needed to ensure the Willamette National Forest continues to supply a reliable supply of timber products and in doing so contributes to the stability of local, regional, and national economies and contribute towards the annual Probable Sale Quantity (PSQ) target of the Forest. The proposed project would yield approximately 24 million board feet of timber products.

Actively Manage Stands to Improve Stand Conditions, Density, Diversity, and Structure – The proposed project is needed to improve stand conditions in terms of diversity, density, and structure, while providing benefits to vegetation, wildlife, and overall health of the forest.

Sustainably manage the network of road systems in the project area – Manage our road system by identifying the minimum roads needed: to meet resource and other management objectives adopted in the relevant land and resource management plan, to meet applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, to reflect long-term funding expectations, and to ensure that the identified system minimizes adverse environmental impacts associated with road construction, reconstruction, decommissioning, and maintenance (36 CFR part 212, Subpart A).

Replace or repair the Idanha Bridge–The Idanha Bridge is not built to current standards and the structural integrity of the bridge has been compromised. The bridge is a critical transportation link for south shore Detroit Lake recreation facilities and also a critical transportation link for public travel, national forest administration, and private timber access.

Connected actions include

- Dispersed recreation management.
- Developed recreation management.
- Weed management.
- Tree planting in gaps.

Proposed Action

The Detroit Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest proposes to commercially harvest about 1,075 acres of second growth forests to enhance the growth and structural complexity of stands. This action would also provide a sustainable yield of timber for commercial products to local and regional economies. The following activities are associated with this project:

1. Commercially thin about 1,040 acres of second growth forests (managed stands younger than 80 years old).

2. Patch or gap cuts of ¼ acre to three acres on approximately 35 acres would be established to enhance structural, spatial, and seral stage diversity.

3. Harvest systems for this project would include roughly 22% helicopter logging, 50% skyline logging and 28% ground based yarding. These relative percentages would ultimately be determined by the final harvest units included in the project and amount of temporary roads constructed.

4. Construction of approximately 2.2 miles of temporary spur roads, and reconstruction of approximately 2.5 miles of spur roads to access timber harvest units. The spur roads would be decommissioned by ripping, water-barring, and re-establishing drainage, and then seeded after harvest activities to minimize soil erosion and maintain water quality.

5. Road maintenance and reconstruction activities on about 84 miles of existing forest system roads within the planning area. Maintenance and reconstruction needs vary by road, but include brushing, reconditioning of roadways and ditches, replacing culverts, and cut slope repair. Road work will help provide for user and public safety and meet Forest Plan objectives.

6. Hazardous fuel reduction treatments to reduce logging slash as a result of harvest would occur on approximately 925 acres to bring stands to levels within Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

7. Decommissioning of approximately 3.3 miles of road, and storage of approximately 2 miles of road.

These activities would most likely be implemented starting fiscal years 2020.

Management Allocations

Management allocations and acreage in the proposed project area

Willamette Forest Plan Management Area		Northwest Forest Plan Designation	Acres in Project Area	Acres of Treatment	*Objectives/Description*
9b	Wildlife Habitat-Pileated Woodpecker	Admin Withdrawn	294	0	
9c	Wildlife Habitat-Marten	Admin Withdrawn	165	0	
11a	Scenic-Modification Middleground	Matrix	960	162	Visually sensitive landscapes will be managed for a modest level of scenic quality.
11c	Scenic Partial Retention Middleground	Matrix	887	14	Visually sensitive landscapes will be managed for a moderate level of scenic quality.
11d	Scenic-Partial Retention Foreground	Matrix	1126	2	Visually sensitive landscapes will be managed for a moderate level of scenic quality.
11f	Scenic Retention Foreground	Matrix	34	0	Visually sensitive landscapes will be managed for a high level of scenic quality
12a	Partial Retention	Developed Recreation-F.S. Site	43	0	Hoover Campground Group Site and Cove Creek Campground
12b	Admin Use Site	Developed Recreation-Special Use Permits	79	0	Stahlman Summer Homes and North Santiam Sportman's Club
14a	General Forest	Matrix	4155	1156	Produce an optimum and sustainable yield of timber based on the growth potential of the land that is compatible with multiple –use objectives.
16b	Late Successional Reserve	LSR	440	0	Protect and enhance conditions of late successional and old growth forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late successional and old growth related species including the Northern spotted owl.
8000	Private/COE lands	n/a	2466	0	Private =2041 acres; COE (managed by FS) =425 acres
			10649	1334	
	Riparian Reserves (estimated acres)		4548	683	Riparian reserves overlay other Forest Plan management allocations.
	NSO Critical Habitat Unit		*0*	*0*	Critical Habitat Unit (CHU) overlay other Forest Plan management allocations.

Concerns Identified

No concerns have been identified by the interdisciplinary team.

Preliminary Alternatives to Proposed Action

No alternatives to the Proposed Action have been identified.

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