



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Forestry

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To: Mike Bordelon, Area Director

From: Tom Savage, Astoria District Forester

CC: Nancy Hirsch, State Forest Division Chief  
Mike Cafferata, State Forest Deputy Division Chief  
Rob Nall, State Forests Operations Coordinator

Date: June 24, 2008

Re: Information Item – Approved Annual Operations Plan for 2009 and Information on Salvage Activities

The 2009 State Forest Annual Operations Plan (AOP) for the Astoria District is attached for your information. During my review of this plan, I have found that it is consistent with the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan, the current District Implementation Plan (see minor modification details below), and the 2009 Annual Operation Planning Standards and Guidance.

During its preparation, this plan was reviewed by technical specialists from within the department and biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Their comments were received verbally and in writing (written comments are on file at the district office). The draft AOP also underwent a 45-day public comment period. All comments were carefully considered and incorporated where appropriate. The changes resulting from public comments are summarized in Appendix D of the AOP.

During the preparation of this AOP, a strong windstorm occurred that resulted in significant windthrow across the district. As a result, the district will be conducting salvage activities removing numerous wind thrown trees from damaged stand types and salvaging scattered trees along many miles of road during the 2009 fiscal year.

There was a minor modification to the District Implementation Plan on 6/20/08 to address the drastic impact the windstorm had on the forest. Some of the damage was so significant that the windblown stands currently are or will be a regeneration stand, while other stands are more intact and will be treated as a partial cut. When these additional salvage partial cut and regeneration acres were added to the original FY09 Primary sale plan, the total harvested partial cut and regeneration acres were outside the I.P. ranges for allowable harvest. On page 78 of the Astoria District I.P. the following language was inserted: "Additionally, unforeseen catastrophic events may initiate the need to conduct salvage harvest. The range of salvage harvest within a stand can vary from salvaging scattered windblown trees throughout a stand, to an entire stand being decimated and in need of salvage and replanting (conversion to REG). In the event that a catastrophic event requires salvage operations, harvest acres may be outside the annual harvest ranges for an individual Annual Operations Plan."

All salvage activities have been prepared consistent with the Northwest Oregon Area Forest Management Plan, Implementation Plan and the State Forest Bulletins regarding salvage (*Salvage Activities in Riparian Management Areas* and *Salvage and Threatened and Endangered Species*).

Consistent with the State Forest Bulletin, *Salvage Activities and Annual Harvest Objectives*, these salvage activities will be used to achieve a portion of the 2009 harvest objective. The salvage activities contribute to achieving the 2009 harvest objective; specifically, an estimated 35.7 MMBF from 1,868 acres of Salvage Regeneration Harvest and 1,010 acres of Scattered Salvage Harvest throughout the district. The salvage activities include the following sales: John Day/Walluski Salvage #2, Simmons/West Green Mountain Salvage #2, Blastoria Salvage, and Shorn Sheep Salvage. State Forests' policies and procedures do not require Pre-Operations Reports or a public comment period for salvage activities. The attached Salvage Summary Table (Attachment 2) provides acres, volume, and value estimates for the salvage sales. It also provides definitions of "salvage" and "regeneration" in the context of the windthrow event. Additional details on these salvage sales are available at the district office.

Originally, the Draft 2009 AOP proposed an output of 64.7 MMBF of timber from approximately 1,016 acres of Partial Cut harvest and 1,173 acres of Regeneration harvest. However, in response to this significant wind event and resulting salvage activities, the final harvest during fiscal year 2009 has been adjusted to an output of 70.3 MMBF which includes 34.6 MMBF from the original AOP and 35.7 MMBF of salvage harvest. To accommodate the additional volume from the salvage harvest, four primary sales *California Elk*, *Mombo Combo*, *Fosters 40* and *Haggis Hunt* were changed from primary operations to alternate operations.

In summary, the total 2009 harvest, counting both the AOP operations and the salvage activities, will be 592 acres of Partial Cut Harvest, 2,485 acres of Regeneration Harvest and 1,010 acres of Salvage Harvest with a volume output of 70.3 MMBF. This volume output is within the specified I.P. volume output ranges and is consistent with the State Forest Bulletin, *Salvage Activities and Annual Harvest Objectives*. This total harvest level (clearcut and partial cut acres) is outside the harvest objective ranges set in the district implementation plan, however, as described earlier, an exception has been made through a minor modification to accommodate the salvage resulting from the catastrophic windstorm.

Approval of this plan does not constitute final approval of individual project details. Individual operations are subject to additional review processes at the district and program staff level before implementation. The operations in this plan may be modified during the final preparation and/or implementation. Modifications to these operations will conform to the process included in the draft Annual Operations Planning Policies and Procedures.

The official copy of this AOP will be on file at the district office. Additional copies are available at the State Forests Program office in Salem, and are also available on the ODF web site at: [http://oregon.gov/ODF/STATE\\_FORESTS/Annual\\_Operations\\_Plans.shtml](http://oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/Annual_Operations_Plans.shtml).

Approved:

   
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Tom Savage Date  
Astoria District Forester

Attachment 1: Page 78 of Astoria District Implementation Plan, Modified "Expected Outputs and Habitat Achievements" section.  
Attachment 2: Salvage Summary Table

## Expected Outputs and Habitat Achievements

Partial cutting will be the primary silvicultural stand management activity to advance stands toward the next level of structural complexity. More complex structures will not be achieved immediately after a partial cut. Past experience suggests that it may take the full 5- to 30-year period after the management prescription for a more complex structure to develop. For partial cuts, approximately 35 percent of the annual harvest acreage will be in stands more than 55 years old. The other 65 percent of the partial cut harvest acreage will be in stands less than or equal to 55 years old. Partial cutting will help CSC and UDS stands develop toward the more complex LYR stand type. Some younger stands will receive multiple partial cut entries on 16-year intervals to develop the components of a LYR stand. Some LYR stands may require an additional partial cut entry to hasten the development of OFS characteristics (larger diameter trees, higher snag densities, greater down wood levels, etc.).

The harvest levels proposed in this implementation plan will contribute toward the desired future structure targets as outlined in Table 26, **Information Summary for all Management Basins**. The greatest risk for missing these structure targets would come from clearcutting too many stands. The long-term desired future condition for the REG structure is 12.5 percent across the district. However, this first 10-year implementation plan proposes an average of 766 acres of clearcut per year, which will yield 0.5 percent of the district in REG structure each year. This conservative approach will provide the opportunity to accumulate additional information about both current and desired future conditions and structure-based management. During this initial 10-year planning period, stands in the following conditions will be assessed for conversion into the REG structure:

- Stands in poor forest health condition (e.g., *Phellinus*-infected stands larger than 5 acres).
- Stands surplus to the CSC or UDS stand structure targets.
- Stands that are not reasonable silvicultural candidates for development into LYR or OFS stands. Typically these stands are sparsely stocked with a brush understory, or over-stocked with a low likelihood of responding positively to partial cutting.
- Stands in a location that cannot effectively be managed for LYR or OFS forest structure.

→ **Additionally, unforeseen catastrophic events may initiate the need to conduct salvage harvest. The range of salvage harvest within a stand can vary from salvaging scattered windblown trees throughout a stand, to an entire stand being decimated and in need of salvage and replanting (conversion to REG). In the event that a catastrophic event requires salvage operations, harvest acres may be outside the annual harvest ranges for an individual Annual Operations Plan.<sup>1</sup>**

For the 10-year planning period, existing OFS stands will not be considered for clearcut harvest, and LYR stands will be considered for clearcut harvest only with sufficient justification.

The annual operations plan will include a projection of how the planned silvicultural activities in a given fiscal year will contribute toward meeting desired future condition goals. Not all stands will be managed toward OFS development. This plan calls for about 26 percent of the Clatsop State<sup>1</sup> Forest to be in the OFS structure type at any given time, once structural goals are attained. Some stands will be clearcut harvested while still in the CSC, UDS, or LYR structures, although most LYR stands are to be carried on to the OFS structure.

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<sup>1</sup> Minor Modification to Astoria District Implementation Plan, 6/20/08

**SALVAGE SALE SUMMARY TABLE\***

Fiscal Year: 2009 Date: 06/16/2008

District: Astoria

Operations	Payment Type	Fund %		County	Sale Quarter	Net Acres		Volume (MMBF)		Value			
		BOF	CSL			Salvage**	Regen***	Conifer	Hard-woods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net
Simmons/West Green Mt. Salvage #2	R	100%	0%	Clatsop	1st	113	714	14.6	0.5	15.1	\$1,278,599	\$0	\$1,278,599
John Day/Walluski Salvage #2	R	100%	0%	Clatsop	1st	87	260	3.7	0.0	3.7	\$492,191	\$0	\$492,191
Blastoria Salvage	R	100%	0%	Clatsop	1st	744	765	12.6	1.1	13.7	\$1,159,174	\$0	\$1,159,174
Shorn Sheep Salvage	R	100%	0%	Clatsop	1st	66	129	3.2	0.0	3.2	\$356,456	\$0	\$356,456
				<b>Salvage Total</b>		<b>1,010</b>	<b>1,868</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>3,286,420</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$3,286,420</b>

\* These salvage sales are the result of the windstorm that occurred in December of 2007.

\*\* These salvage acres are not classified as partial cut acres because a constant volume per acre will not be removed.

\*\*\* These units were severely effected by windthrow and no longer have the silvicultural capability of a structured stand.