

Public Forest Protection 201



Reminder: Law and policy

Agency analysis/NEPA

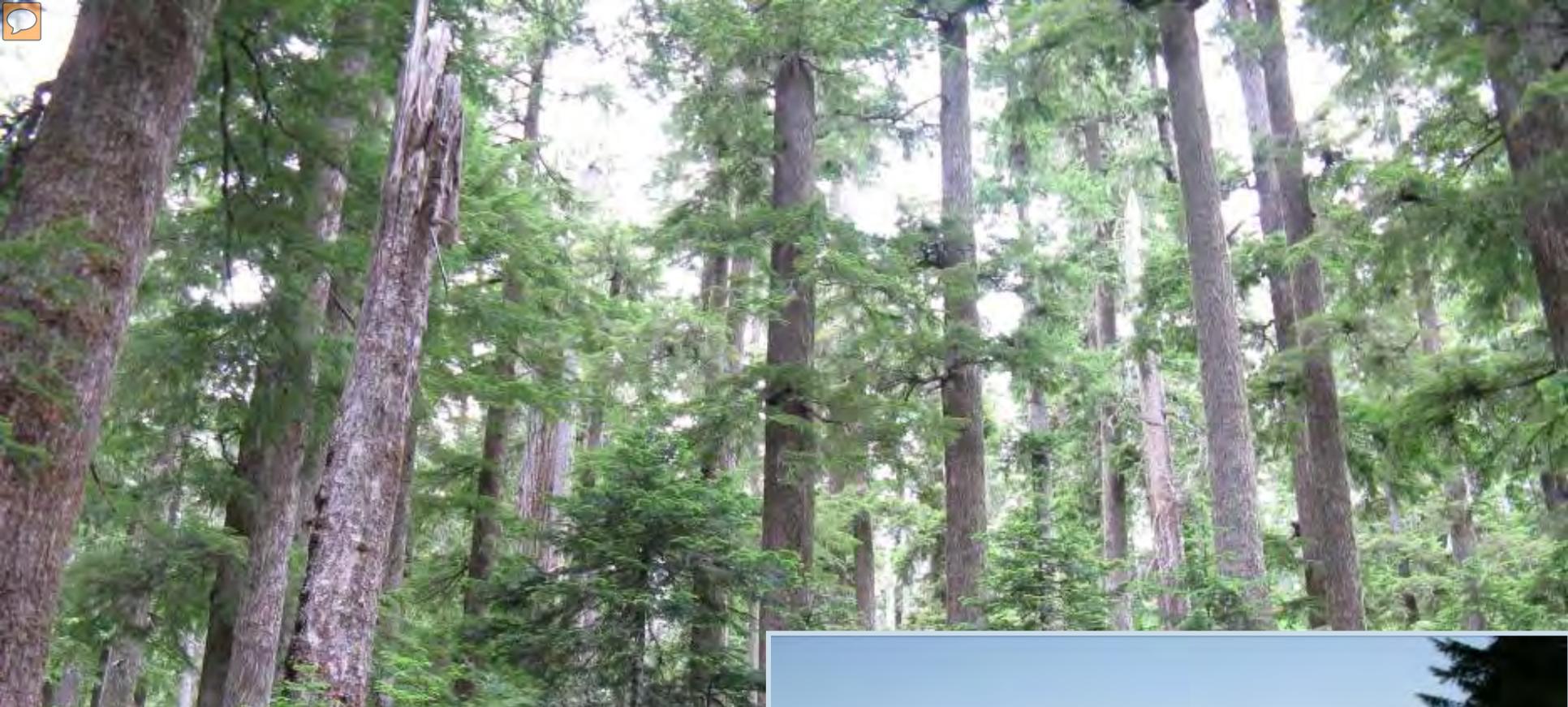
Defining “projects”

How to Participate:

- Comments
- Collaboration
- Monitoring

Walk through an example!





One of Oregon Wild's key goals is promoting public forest management that keeps old forests standing, wild areas intact, and prioritizes ecological restoration – not timber production for its own sake.





Common Sense Vision for Forest Management



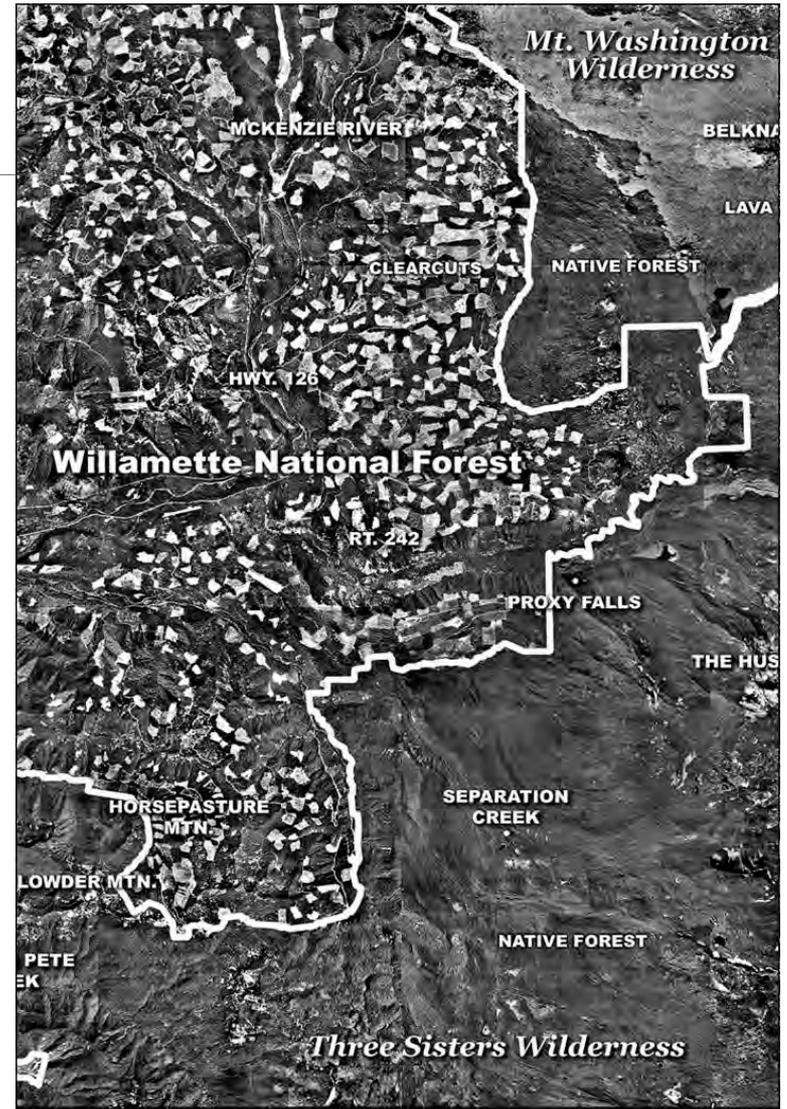
- Protect all remaining mature and old-growth forests.
- Protect intact unroaded areas and core wildlife habitat from further fragmentation.
- Focus management efforts on ecological restoration of dense young forests, crumbling roads, degraded streams, weeds, and native fire regimes.
 - Timber production should only be a by-product of such restoration, not the primary driver.
- Reduce fuels where needed near homes and communities.

The Legacy of Past Logging (NOT common sense...)



Umpqua National Forest, Oregon

THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR PUBLIC FORESTS BY THE TIMBER INDUSTRY AND THE FOREST SERVICE



Willamette National Forest, Oregon

THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR PUBLIC FORESTS BY THE TIMBER INDUSTRY AND THE FOREST SERVICE

Federal Laws that Apply to Public Lands

Protective laws like the **Wilderness Act** or **Wild & Scenic Rivers Act**, **Clean Water Act**

Endangered Species Act (ESA)– requires plan for recovery of species, protection of habitat, mitigation of harm

National Forest Management Act (NFMA) – applies to USFS

Federal Land Policy & Management Act (FLPMA) – applies to BLM which require comprehensive management plans;



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - requires disclosure of environmental impacts, consideration of alternatives to a proposed action, and public input



Policy Highlight: Northwest Forest Plan

- Policies must integrate and comply with federal laws.
- Northwest Forest Plan is a policy for management of certain public lands in Oregon, Washington, and northern California.
 - Consists of 4 land allocations, which dictate what management actions can be taken in each type of area:
 - Late Successional Reserves (LSRs)
 - Matrix
 - Adaptive Management Areas (AMAs)
 - Riparian Reserves
 - And 3 mitigation measures/processes:
 - Watershed Analysis
 - Aquatic Conservation Strategy
 - Survey and Manage mitigation measures



BLM's Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon

Laws that apply: FLPMA, ESA, NEPA, O&C Act

Process begun 2012 with scoping, public input sessions.

DEIS released in April 2015, with 90 day comment period.

FEIS and Proposed RMP released April 2016, with 30 day protest period.

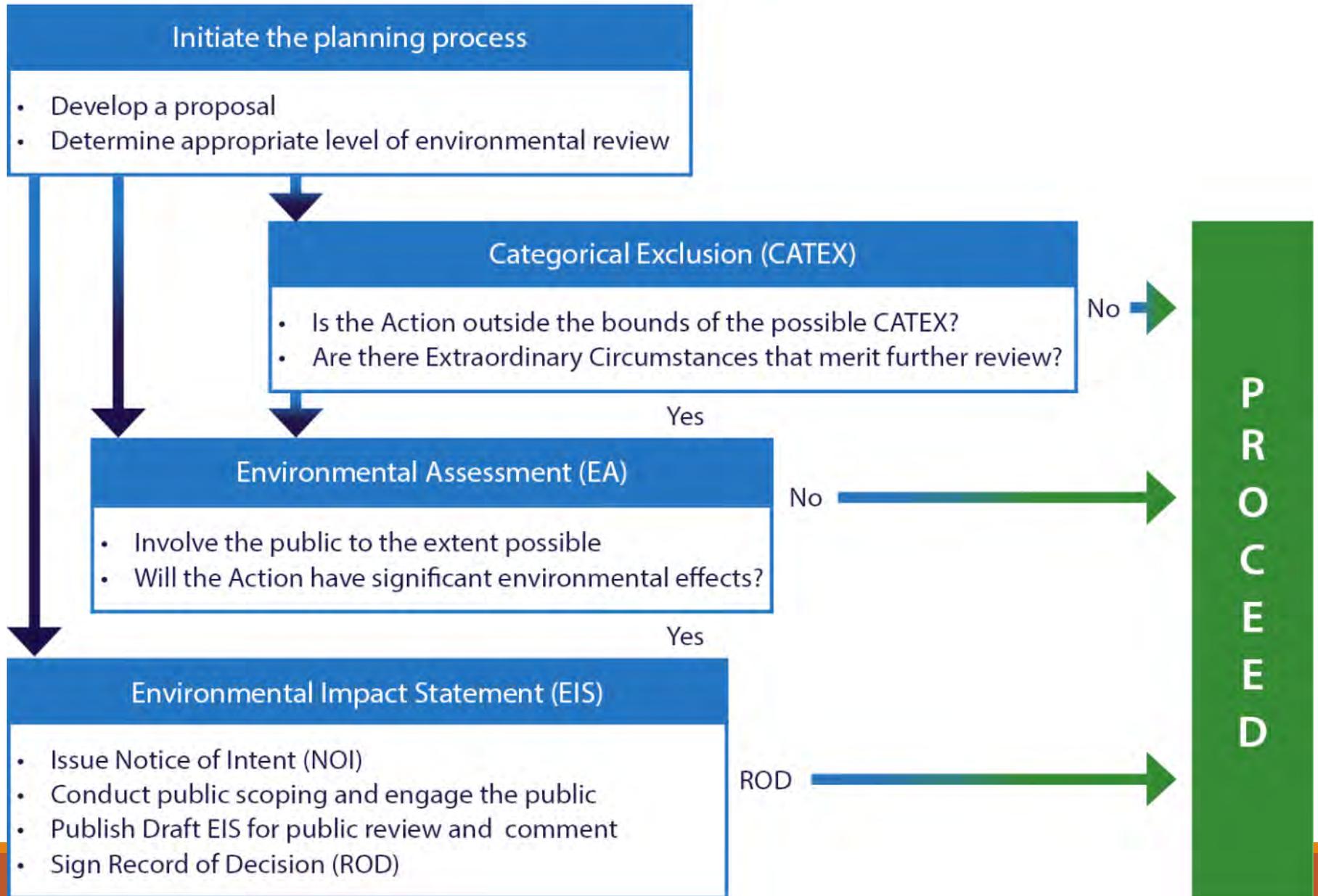
Decision summer 2016.

Litigation ongoing

New management plan:

- shrinks streamside buffers,
- increases clear-cut style logging,
- reduces protections for wildlife.

The NEPA Process



Levels of Analysis



Environmental review under NEPA can follow one of three alternate pathways, which involve increasing levels of analysis and public involvement depending on how much impact they are likely to have:

- **Categorical Exclusions (CE or CX):** A very rudimentary analysis that is used when the agency finds there are no “extraordinary circumstances” and if the proposed action falls under defined categories of activities.
- **Environmental Assessments (EA):** A mid-level of analysis for proposals that are unlikely to cause “significant impact.” Most projects follow this path.. One of the purposes of an EA is to determine whether effects might be “significant” thereby triggering an EIS.
- **Environmental Impact Statements (EIS):** The highest level of analysis for proposals expected to cause significant environmental impacts.

What type of “projects”?

- Commercial Thinning
- Regeneration harvest
- Variable retention harvest
- Ecological forestry
- Pre-commercial thinning
- Fuels reduction
- Post-fire salvage
- Hazard reduction
- “Early seral” habitat creation
- Shelterwood harvest



What type of “projects”?



- Stream restoration
- Road decommissioning
- Riparian thinning or restoration
- Invasive species treatments
- Prescribed fire
- Grazing
- Recreation trails & facilities
- Pipelines and energy development

How does a timber sale work?



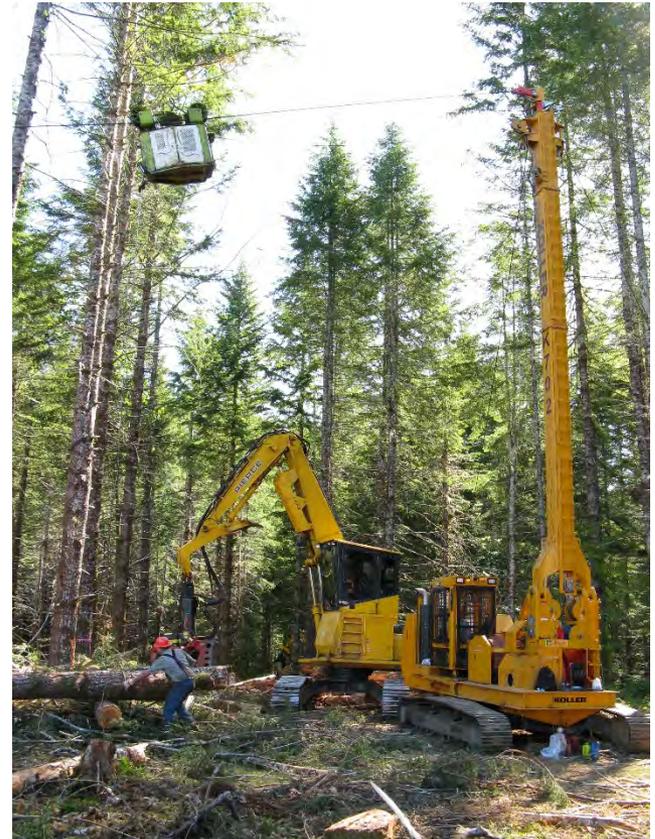
- After the NEPA analysis and decision, federal agencies offer timber volume associated with a project for sale to companies.
- The winning bidder gets a contract with the agency to implement the timber sale based on the criteria laid out in the NEPA analysis.
- The company or contractors then do the logging and associated road construction/maintenance.
- Some contracts include associated restoration activities.

How much logging happens on public forest land?

On average in recent years, across the state of Oregon, about **600 million board feet of timber are harvested on forests managed by the BLM or Forest Service annually.**

(That's about 120,000 log trucks full, which would stretch 1,250 miles.)

Associated work includes road building and maintenance, treating invasive weeds, and getting rid of "slash" created by logging.



Weighing in matters!

Oregon Wild participation in 2016-2017:

- Commented on 224 projects (half of what we saw)
- Unquantifiable number of changes made through process to address our concerns
- Filed 35 objections, protests, or appeals
- 18 positive outcomes of challenges where changes were made to address our concerns
- Asked supporters to weigh in on a mere dozen proposals



Dear Oregon Wild Supporter,

The McKenzie River and its tributaries are well known for clear, clean water, beautiful ancient forests, and nearby (exceptional!) recreation – from hiking and biking, to fishing and rafting. Over the past several decades, much of this pristine watershed was logged – including vast stretches of the Willamette National Forest. The intact forests that remain form the backdrop to the scenic highways, trails, and waterways so many people enjoy.



The McKenzie River is one of the state's prettiest and most beautiful, but its forests need to be protected, not cleared.

With so much attention on the McKenzie as a destination for recreation and provider of some of the cleanest drinking water and best fish and wildlife habitat in the state, you'd think that logging century-old forests in critical wildlife habitat and along streams would be a thing of the past. Unfortunately, this isn't exactly the case. The McKenzie River Ranger District, part of the Willamette National Forest, continues to propose logging projects, like the Goose Timber Sale, that have the potential to harm these important values.

[Help protect McKenzie's precious wildlands and waters!](#)



The Goose Timber Sale Project may sound familiar. Originally proposed back in 2010, the project was opposed by neighbors in the town of McKenzie Bridge who were not too happy to learn about the aggressive logging project proposed in their backyard. Oregon Wild and our partners challenged this timber sale, highlighting the significant negative impacts to threatened owl habitat, their prey, roadless areas, and streamsides. A federal judge agreed that the Forest Service needed to do a better analysis of the impacts of this logging proposal. Unfortunately, rather than working to fix the plan by dropping controversial elements, the Forest Service essentially just reanalyzed the same project: over 2,000 acres of logging, including 43 acres of clearcuts – much of it within the 10,000 acre Lookout Mountain roadless area, in century-old, never-before-logged forests, in spotted owl habitat, and along sensitive streams.

There is another option: a different plan for the Goose Project area. Alternative 3, would stay out of natural forests over 80 years old, do no clearcutting, build far fewer damaging roads, and reduce negative impacts to sensitive wildlife. The Forest Service should choose that option – reducing controversy and better protecting the McKenzie's iconic natural beauty and important ecosystem. But, with the timber already sold from the 2010 version of this project, there is concern the decision to move forward with the bigger logging plan is a foregone conclusion.

[That's why it is important that the people who value the McKenzie make their voices heard.](#)

This project could have big impacts on clean water, soil, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and the scenic beauty of the McKenzie we know and love. If you think the forests of the McKenzie River watershed should be protected and restored, not further degraded by intensive logging, [please take a moment to send a short comment letter to the Willamette National Forest and let them know you have concerns about the Goose Timber Sale Project.](#)



For the wild,
Chandra LeGue
Western Oregon Field Coordinator
Oregon Wild

P.S. - Comments are due by April 20th. Want to know more? You can find out all of the details on the Goose projects, including maps and other documents on the [Willamette National Forest's webpage](#).

Help us protect the last remaining old-growth forests in Oregon and restore millions of acres of previously mismanaged lands.

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Want to see more? [Click here to sign-up for future e-mails.](#)

[Send us any questions or comments.](#)

To make sure you receive this e-mail, [add us to your address book.](#)

To remove yourself from our mailing list, [please click here.](#)

Public Process Demystified

It's about knowing when to plug in... Oregon Wild does this on behalf of our supporters, but individuals can participate too!

- Collaboration
- Scoping comments
- Public meetings/field trips
- Comments on draft proposal
- Objection to draft decision (USFS)
- Protest & appeal of decision (BLM)
- Resolution, litigation, or live with it



How to Get Information About Projects

- Get on **mailing or e-mail notification lists** by contacting the local agency office
- Monitor **local newspapers** for legal notices of timber sales or decisions
- Monitor the EPA section of the **Federal Register** for notices for Environmental Impact Statements (as well as rules and regulations) (<https://www.federalregister.gov/>)
- Monitor **agency websites** for information
- Just ask us at Oregon Wild!



[BLM NEPA](#)

[BLM Planning](#)

[Cooperating Agency Info](#)

[Related Links](#)

[Find a BLM Office](#)

[Help](#)

Welcome

Welcome to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) national register for Land Use Planning (LUP) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. The register allows you to review and comment online on BLM NEPA and planning projects. This site also makes finding documents easier by allowing you to search for projects by geographic location, project resource type, year, and other project-specific fields.

If you have questions about the BLM NEPA or Planning process, please use the links at the top of the page to find more information about your topic of choice.

All BLM states will be using the ePlanning NEPA Register and LUP Register by the end of 2017 per BLM policy. If a NEPA or LUP project cannot be located through this page, please visit the corresponding BLM Field Office website to obtain project location and information.

ePlanning Project Search

Type of project: Land Use Plan NEPA

[Map Search](#) **[Text Search](#)**

Open Comment Period
 Only Active Projects

State(s)	Office(s)	Document Type(s)	Fiscal Year(s)	Program(s)
Alaska	All	All	All	All
Arizona	ORWA - Andrews FO	CX	2016	
California	ORWA - Ashland FO	DNA	2015	
Colorado	ORWA - Baker City FO	EA	2014	
Eastern States	ORWA - Border FO	EIS	2013	
Idaho	ORWA - Burns DO	OTHER_NEPA	2012	
Montana/Dakotas	ORWA - Butte Falls FO		2011	
Nevada	ORWA - Cascade-Siskiyou NMON		2010	
New Mexico	ORWA - Cascades FO		2009	
Oregon/Washington	ORWA - Central Oregon RA		2008	

[Advanced Search »](#)

Results (162) Page(s) : 1 2 [next](#)

NEPA #	Doc Type	Project Name	Office(s)	Program(s)	Project Status	Comment Period	Decision Date
DOI-BLM-ORWA-S040-2016-0005-CX	CX	CenturyLink Telecommunication Cable ROW Renewal OR-048520	ORWA - Salem DO ORWA - Cascades FO	Lands and Realty	Completed		
DOI-BLM-ORWA-S040-2016-0004-CX	CX	Larch Mountain Vault Restroom Removal and Marmot Dam Vault Restroom Installation	ORWA - Salem DO ORWA - Cascades FO	Recreation and Visitor Services	Preparation and Planning		
DOI-BLM-ORWA-S040-2016-0003-CX	CX	Molalla Running Club's Molalla River Trail Race	ORWA - Salem DO ORWA - Cascades FO	Recreation and Visitor Services	Completed		
DOI-BLM-ORWA-S040-2016-0001-EA	EA	Hole in the Road Thinning Project	ORWA - Cascades FO ORWA - Salem DO	Forestry & Timber	Public Scoping		
DOI-BLM-ORWA-S000-2016-0003-DNA	DNA	2016 Horning Seed Orchard Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	ORWA - Salem DO	Other	Decision and Appeal		02/08/2016
DOI-BLM-ORWA-S000-2016-0002-DNA	DNA	Monitoring Procedures for Pesticide Applications	ORWA - Salem DO ORWA - Cascades FO	Other	Decision and Appeal		01/28/2016
DOI-BLM-ORWA-S000-2016-0001-DNA	DNA	Tree Tipping for Fish Logs at Horning Seed Orchard	ORWA - Salem DO	Fish and Wildlife	Completed		

USA Forest Service Malheur National Forest

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Search [] Go

Site Map

Malheur National Forest

- Home
- Special Places
- Recreation
- Alerts & Notices
- Passes & Permits
- Maps & Publications

Land & Resources Management

- Planning
- Projects
- Resource Management
- Geospatial Data

Learning Center

- Working Together
- About the Forest

News & Events

Contact Information

Malheur National Forest

Supervisor's Office Blue Mountain Ranger District

Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

431 Patterson Bridge Rd

Mailing: P.O. Box 909
John Day, OR 97943
541-575-3000

Emigrant Creek Ranger District

Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Closed for lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

265 Highway 20 South
Hines, OR 97738
541-574-4300

Prairie City Ranger District

Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Closed for lunch 12:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

327 SW Front Street
Mailing: P.O. Box 337
Prairie City, OR 97669
541-825-3800

Contact Us

Projects

Alerts & Warnings

- Canyon Creek Complex Fire Closure
- Malheur & Ochoco OHVs on Forest Roads
- Weed Free Feed Required
- View All Forest Alerts ...

Malheur Forest Plan - 1990

- Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision
- T&E Forest Plan Monitoring
- Acoustic Restoration Planning Information
- Schedule of Proposed Action
- National SOPA Database - Linked page - General Information
- Malheur National Forest SOPA Database - Linked page - Current and Past Reports

Malheur National Forest Current and Recent Projects

Sort By:	Name	Status	Management Unit	Purpose	Type
	Developing Proposal				
	Blue Dollar Complex Allotment Management Plans Project				
	Evaluation of livestock grazing authorization on three existing allotments: Blue Bucket, Dollar Basin, and Star Grade.				
	Camp Link				
	The Camp Link Project includes a suite of activities to restore forest resiliency, including silviculture and fuels treatments, riparian restoration, range improvements, recreation site development, and associated road activities.				
	Flat Vegetation Project				
	Vegetation management and watershed restoration activities including timber harvest and road closures and decommissioning.				
	Under Analysis				
	2016 Spring Planting				
	Replanting of fire damaged locale in order to improve stand heterogeneity.				
	Canyon Creek Complex Fire Salvage Project				
	The objectives of this project are to recover the economic value of dead trees and to provide for societal needs for wood products, while maintaining the ecological integrity of post-fire habitats for woodpecker species.				
	Doyle Vegetation Management Project				
	Vegetation management and watershed restoration activities including timber harvest and road closures and decommissioning.				
	Mapone				
	The Mapone Project includes a suite of activities to restore forest resiliency, including silviculture and fuels treatments, Mapone Lake restoration, recreation developments, and associated road activities.				
	North Finger Complex Allotment Management Plans				
	Cattle grazing authorization on six existing allotments: Donaldson, Deer, Hamilton, King, Indian Ridge, and Highway.				
	Star Aspen				
	Aspen and stream restoration in the Starr sub-watershed. Removal of encroaching conifers through commercial and non-commercial treatments. Addition of large and coarse wood in streams and decommissioning of riparian roads.				
	Summit Creek Restoration Project				
	Reduce fire hazard near evacuation route for at-risk communities; reduce stand density to increase resiliency to insect and disease; protect bull trout habitat; develop pre-fire suppression soil-growth stand composition; protect scenic and roadless.				
	Analysis Completed				
	Big Mosquito				
	The Big Mosquito Project includes a suite of activities to restore forest resiliency, including silviculture and fuels treatments, riparian restoration, range water developments, recreation site development, and associated road activities.				
	Canyon Creek Complex Fire Reforestation				
	The project will revegetate approximately 19,524 acres of stand replacement patches within the Canyon Creek Complex Fire that burned in 2013 on the Blue Mountain and Prairie City Ranger Districts.				
	Central Malheur Allotment				
	Authorization of grazing on the Central Malheur Allotment.				
	EB 16				
	Application of thinning, slash treatments, and prescribed fire to reduce insect outbreak and fire hazard.				
	Inze Allotment Management Plan				
	The Emigrant Creek Ranger District, Malheur National Forest, proposes to continue authorization of livestock grazing within the Inze allotment using adaptive management strategies designed to meet Forest Plan standards and guidelines.				
	Malheur National Forest Site-Specific Invasive Plants Treatment				
	(Corrected) Treatment of known and newly discovered invasive plants using herbicide, manual, mechanical, biological and/or cultural treatments. Includes 1 non-significant forest plan amendment to allow use of aminopyralid (Kilstone TM).				
	Sodahear Project				
	Approximately 20,000 acres of thinning in timber stands to reduce fire hazard, insect and disease risk, improve old growth, identify / plan biomass stands, restore riparian aspen, restore mountain malqoatry, and maintain wildlife habitat.				
	Wolf Project				
	Watershed restoration activities within the Wolf Creek Watershed that improve the health, vigor, and resiliency of vegetation, improve soil and watershed conditions; reduce the fire hazard, and capture the economic value of salvage trees.				
	On Hold				
	CenturyLink Buried and Overhead Telephone Lines				
	Continued use and maintenance of buried and overhead telephone cable and necessary appurtenances located on the Blue Mountain Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest.				
	Malheur NF Travel Management				
	Implement the Travel Management Rule (prohibiting motorized travel off of existing designated routes where it is not currently prohibited) and continue to provide motorized access for dispersed camping.				
	Project Archive				
	Some of our other projects can be accessed in our Project Archive .				

Forest Service Home | USDA.gov | reforestation.gov | USA.gov | Whitehouse.gov
Privacy | FOIA | Accessibility Statement | Privacy Policy | Important Notices | Information Quality

How to find project information on National Forests

- Go to a National Forest website.
- Click on “Land & Resource Management” on the left side.
- Click on “Projects” under that heading to get a list.

Tips for Comments

- Address comments to the right person, at the right address
- Be clear about what project or activity you are addressing
- Be clear about what you'd like the agency to do differently
 - Suggest an additional alternative, for example
- Focus on specific elements of the proposal – not just general issues
- Raise specific issues as early in the process as possible
- Be supportive of stuff you like
- Speak from experience – how are YOU impacted by the project?
- Back up your information with citations to reliable sources if possible

Concerns to Consider bringing up

- Water quality
- Recreation and scenery
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Protecting mature and old-growth forests
- Carbon storage & climate change mitigation
- Using best available science
- Not fragmenting intact wild areas

Collaboration around Forest Management

- New trend in public lands management.
- Public invited to participate in many cases. Good way to go in-depth into an area you care about.
- Collaboration can have good outcomes, leading to greater acceptance and utilization of common sense vision.
- Collaboration can also have some pitfalls, and needs to be done right to be effective.



Public Field Trips

- Agencies often hold a public field trip in the early stages of project development to get input.
- GREAT opportunity to see the area, and have direct access to specialists working to plan the project and doing NEPA analysis.
- Ask questions (there are NO BAD ONES)! You'll find out a lot more than by reading documents.



Ground-truthing (aka monitoring)

Why do it?

- See what makes an area special
- See if documents are accurate
- Gain legal standing
- Hold agency accountable for actions after the fact

When do it?

- Preferably before comments or protest is due so can add place-specific issues to our comments.
- After a project is implemented

Tools you'll need

- Agency documentation and other context
- Maps
- Camera

*Know what you're looking for: big trees, forest structure, road condition, recreation use, wildlife



Other groups who lead organized ground-truthing trips:

- Bark (Portland)
- Cascadia Wildlands (Eugene)
- Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project (Eastern Oregon)

Example: Flat Country McKenzie River Ranger District Willamette National Forest

- Scoping comments on proposed EIS were due Sept. 19
- Draft EIS expected March 2019, with comment period
- Final EIS expected August 2019, with objection period to follow
- Objection resolution and decision
- More info at
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53966>

Plantation forest proposed
for commercial thinning in
Flat Country Project



Past commercial thinning
in plantation in Flat
Country Project area



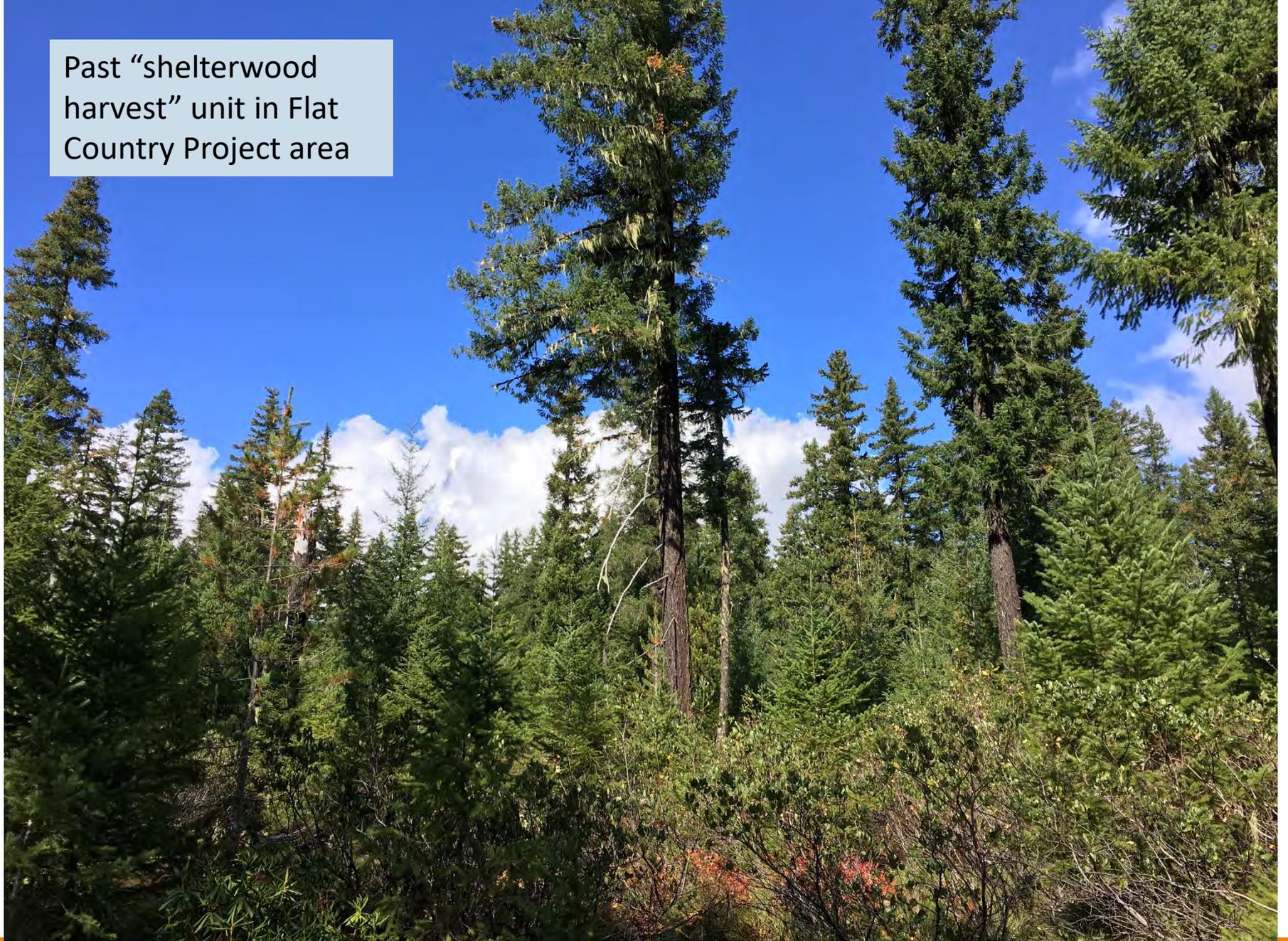
Past “gap creation” in Flat Country Project area



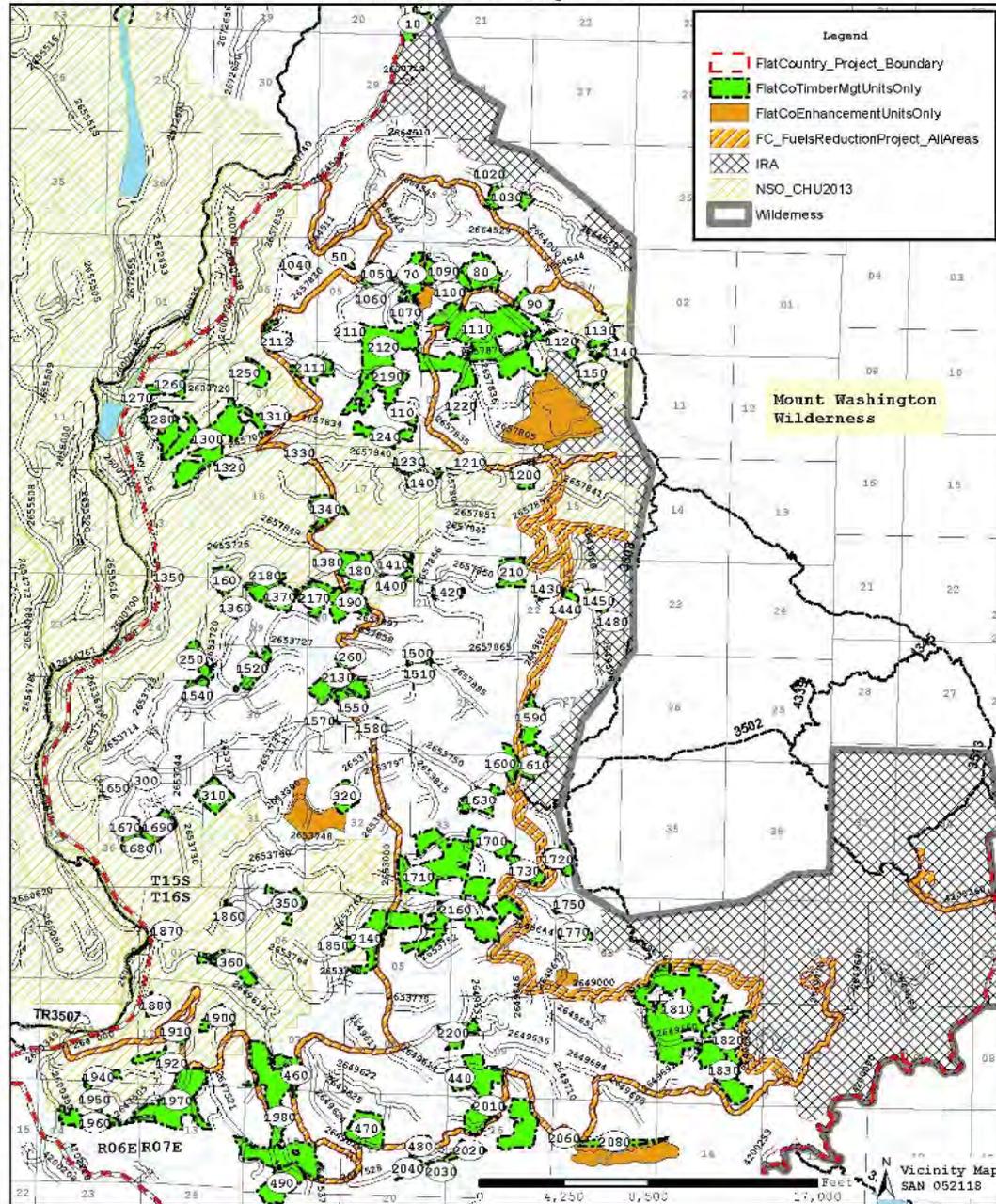
Natural, 150 year old forest proposed for “shelterwood” harvest in Flat Country Project.



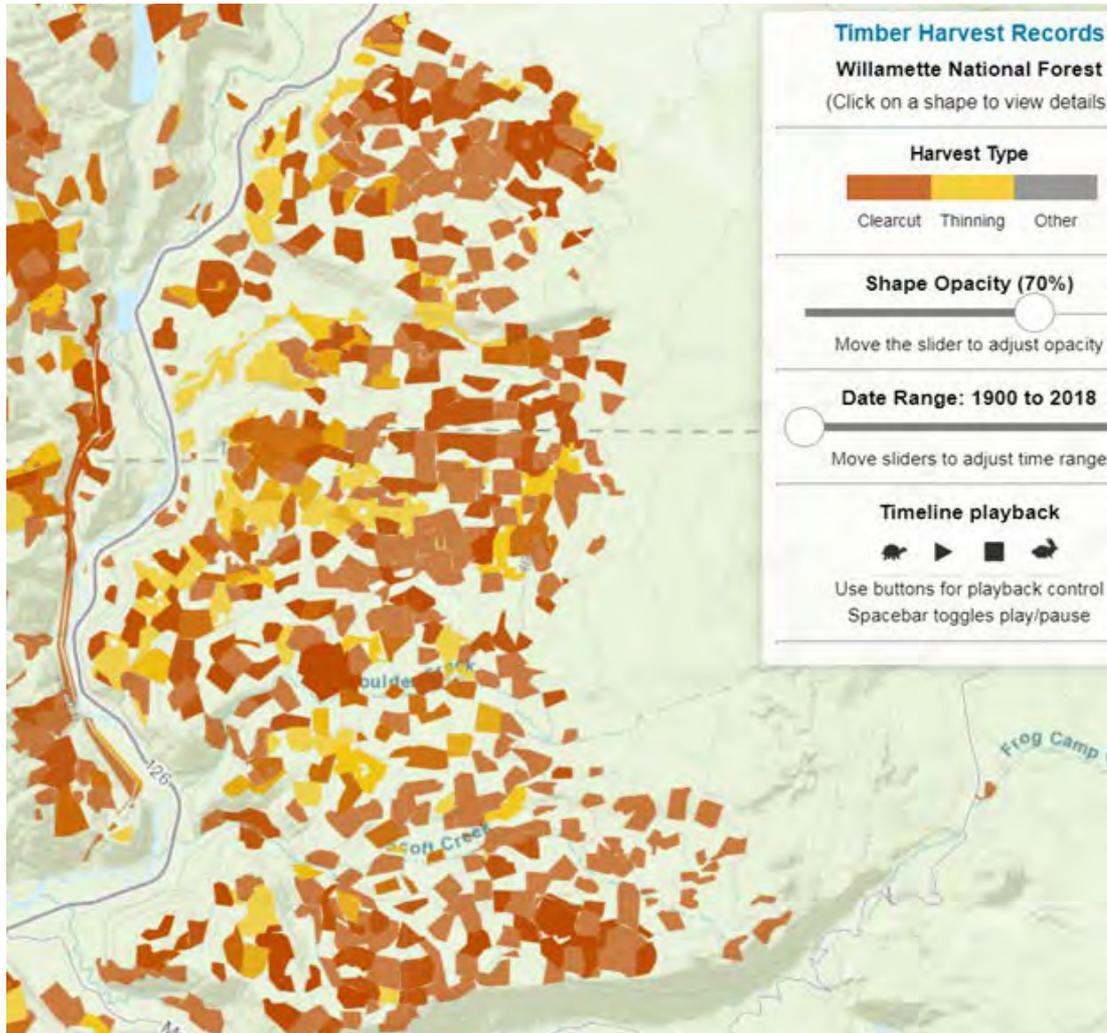
Past “shelterwood
harvest” unit in Flat
Country Project area



Flat Country EIS Project
 Vicinity Units Map
 Willamette National Forest
 McKenzie River Ranger District



Flat Country – past harvest in area



Source:
<https://logging.oregonhowl.org>

What else can you do? There are plenty of ways to raise awareness!

- Alerts to organizational networks – raise awareness!
- Earned media – connect with reporters!
- Letters to the editor – people read them!
- Congressional action – doesn't hurt to ask for their help!
- Visit the place of concern – with friends!

EUGENE**WEEKLY**.COM

Clearcut Proposed Near Roadless Area

ARTICLE | DECEMBER 24, 2015 - 12:00AM | BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN



The John's Last Stand Timber sale has trees more than 100 years old and is near a proposed wilderness area. Photo: Oregon Wild/Doug Heiken

A patch of forest near Dexter, Oregon, was auctioned off at 10 am Thursday, Dec. 17. That patch, called the John's Last Stand timber sale by the Bureau of Land Management, is near popular hiking trails and the Hardesty Mountain Roadless Area and is just a little more than 20 miles southeast of Eugene.

According to the BLM's sale proposal, John's Last Stand is being sold as a "regeneration harvest." Conservation group Oregon Wild says the proposal calls for leaving only six to eight trees an acre — essentially a clearcut.

"We are dumbfounded why BLM would propose to clearcut a beloved recreation area right in the backyard of Eugene and Springfield," Doug Heiken of Oregon Wild says. He tells *EW* that "dozens of citizens and conservation organizations

submitted comments expressing their concerns about logging this old-growth forest area within the 7,000-plus acre Hardesty Roadless Area just a stone's throw from the popular Mount June trail."

Thank you!



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- How do you want to be more involved? We are here to help share information, answer questions, etc!
 - Contact Chandra LeGue, Western Oregon Field Coordinator
 - cl@oregonwild.org
 - 541-915-2363
 - Feedback appreciated!

