

# **Ecologically Appropriate Restoration Thinning In the Northwest Forest Plan Area, June 2012**

## **Summary of Key Findings**

### **Non-Controversial Increase in Timber Volume**

A new report titled *Ecologically Appropriate Restoration Thinning in the Northwest Forest Plan Area*, finds that annual federal timber volume could increase 44% over what has been produced on average in the last 15 years while maintaining the clean water and wildlife protections of the Northwest Forest Plan over the next two decades.

Under a program of science-based and ecologically appropriate thinning of mostly small diameter trees in degraded forests, BLM and U.S. Forest Service lands could produce 774 million board feet (mmbf) annually, compared to an average of 537 mmbf than has been produced since the Northwest Forest Plan was put into place (1995-2010).

### **Comparison to the Northwest Forest Plan**

An average of 537 MMBF/year has been produced under the NWFP between 1995 and 2010. The amount of timber sold under the NWFP has varied by Administration, or an average of 546, 510 and 620 MMBF/year for Clinton, Bush and Obama respectively.

### **Results by State**

According to the report, volume increases would come from Washington (138%), California (100%) and Oregon (37%). The overall increase benefits the entire region, as local mills often process logs from neighboring states. The potential increase on Oregon's national forests is partially offset by a decrease that is projected for western Oregon BLM lands (-18%), yet still allows Oregon's recent historic federal forest timber output to significantly increase compared to previous years.

### **Jobs in the Woods and the Mills**

Using the generally accepted multiplier of 11.4 direct, indirect and induced jobs per million board feet of timber produced in western Oregon, the additional increment of timber volume recommended in this report (~237 MMBF/year) would equate to 2,702 timber (logging, hauling, milling and related) jobs.

### **Ecological Restoration Thinning is Only One Part of Ecological Restoration**

This report addresses only one element of terrestrial restoration and focuses solely on the commercial timber volume that can come as a byproduct of ERT. ERT itself does not constitute full forest and watershed (including aquatic) restoration, and therefore cannot achieve all desired objectives, including restoring water quality and wild fish populations. Factoring in comprehensive forest and watershed restoration would mean even more of an economic boost for communities because water and watershed restoration jobs are additive to more traditional logging related jobs in the woods.

### **Best Available Science**

In order to ensure that recommendations in this report are consistent with the best available science to recover the northern spotted owl, the screens in this report were developed considering the

recommendations of independent peer reviews on the 2008 and 2010 draft northern spotted owl recovery plans. As such, owl “activity centers,” which include nest areas, were removed from further analysis as well as all mature and old-growth moist forests, which—in the main—is all nesting/roosting and foraging habitat for the imperiled species.

<b>Potential Acres Treated and Timber Volumes by Federal Administrative Units</b>						
<b>Federal Administrative Unit</b>	<b>Treated Area Per Year (acres)</b>	<b>Potential Average Annual Volume For Sale 2013-2032 (mmbf)</b>	<b>Average Annual Volume Sold 1995-2010 (mmbf)</b>	<b>Projected Change in Average Annual Sale Volume</b>		
				<b>(mmbf)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	
Gifford Pinchot NF	6,027	54.4	19.1	35.3	185%	
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF	3,003	27.9	7.8	20.1	258%	
Okanogan-Wenatchee NF	9,261	58.0	29.2	28.8	99%	
Olympic NF	2,957	34.2	17.4	16.8	97%	
<b>Washington Total</b>	<b>21,248</b>	<b>174.6</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>101.1</b>	<b>138%</b>	
Coos Bay BLM	1,860	20.4	30.5	-10.1	-33%	
Eugene BLM	2,237	23.3	29.6	-6.3	-21%	
Lakeview BLM	521	4.5	5.6	-1.1	-19%	
Medford BLM	3,536	31.8	33.3	-1.5	-4%	
Roseburg BLM	2,637	24.9	27.3	-2.4	-9%	
Salem BLM	2,437	26.8	34.7	-7.9	-23%	
<b>Oregon BLM Total</b>	<b>13,230</b>	<b>131.8</b>	<b>161.0</b>	<b>-29.2</b>	<b>-18%</b>	
Deschutes NF	4,926	32.5	27.6	4.9	18%	
Fremont-Winema NF	2,234	17.7	6.3	11.4	180%	
Mt. Hood NF	5,565	51.9	32.0	19.9	62%	
Rogue-Siskiyou NF	5,733	50.6	39.1	11.5	29%	
Siuslaw NF	2,290	27.3	26.2	1.1	4%	
Umpqua NF	5,332	49.0	30.0	19.0	63%	
Willamette NF	7,544	73.7	59.3	14.4	24%	
<b>Oregon USFS Total</b>	<b>33,623</b>	<b>302.7</b>	<b>220.5</b>	<b>82.2</b>	<b>37%</b>	
<b>Oregon Total</b>	<b>46,853</b>	<b>434.4</b>	<b>381.5</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>14%</b>	
N. California BLM	692	6.4	0	6.4	--	
Klamath NF	5,126	44.6	25.0	19.6	78%	
Lassen NF	238	2.4	3.1	-0.7	-21%	
Mendocino NF	2,281	21.4	6.8	14.6	214%	
Modoc NF	348	2.7	2.4	0.3	14%	
Shasta-Trinity NF	7,429	66.3	37.4	29.0	77%	
Six Rivers NF	2,361	21.0	7.6	13.4	177%	
<b>California Total</b>	<b>18,476</b>	<b>166.0</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>82.7</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>86,577</b>	<b>774.0</b>	<b>537/3</b>	<b>236.7</b>	<b>44%</b>	

All volumes are from commercial treatments and include sawlog and pulpwood/chip material.

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