

Date: October 10, 2000

Subject: Oregon Department of Forestry Oregon Plan Activity Report

To: Governor John Kitzhaber, Paula Burgess, and Roy Hemmingway

From: James E. Brown, State Forester

This activity report includes activity information from the Oregon Department of Forestry that took place during the months of July, August, and September 2000. All of the activities identified are either well ahead of schedule or are on schedule, unless specifically noted.

Statewide Activities

ODF 1: Oregon Department of Forestry Monitoring

Activities 1.1 through 1.10 are either completed or are on schedule. No new or unusual findings are available at this time. Completed reports can be obtained by contacting the Oregon Department of Forestry.

ODF 2: Landowner (State and Private Forest Landowner) Monitoring and Assessments

Reports on these projects can be obtained by contacting the individual landowners. Some of the projects have been completed, while others are of an ongoing nature.

ODF 4: ODF Regulatory Activities

ODF 4.14: Forest Practices Advisory Committee on Salmon and Watersheds

The Ad Hoc Forest Practices Advisory Committee presented a final report and recommendations to the Board of Forestry on September 6, 2000. The proposed recommendation, if implemented, will increase shade along forest streams, provide more large wood for fish habitat, remove barriers to fish passage, offer channel migration zone protection, reduce sedimentation from forest roads and produce other resource benefits.

ODF 5: State Forests Management Activities

ODF 5.2: Northwest State Forest Lands Management Plan

The Oregon Board of Forestry approved administrative rulemaking processes for the draft Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan (NW FMP) and Southwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan (SW FMP) today at its meeting in Salem. The decision sets in motion the final public review and comment on the draft plans, which will culminate in the board's adoption of the plans in early 2001. Begun in 1994, the planning processes garnered the participation of a wide array of citizens and interest groups and incorporated the most current, multi-disciplinary scientific information available.

ODF 6: Assistance to Family Forest Landowners

There is nothing new to report this quarter for Activities 6.1 through 6.4.

ODF 7: Urban Forest Community Assistance

There is nothing new to report this quarter for Activities 7.1 through 7.3.

ODF 8: Cooperative Efforts in Information, Assistance, and Education

ODF 8.1: Planning and Coordination

ODF staff throughout the state regularly participate as members of local watershed councils and demonstration projects. Details of technical assistance or special presentations provided by the ODF to watershed councils is described below under each region.

ODF 9: Awards and Recognition

ODF 9.2: Forest Operator Recognition Program

The 2000 Operator Recognition Award screening is currently underway. Nominations are to be turned in to ODF regional coordinators for screening, and tours with members of the ODF regional committees will take place during the next quarter.

North Coast Region

ODF 3 Voluntary Private Landowner/Operator Activities

ODF 3.1: Road Erosion and Risk Project

ODF staff in the ***Tillamook District*** worked with private forest landowners to design, plan, and implement the installation of a large number of fish passage structures and road improvement projects to provide habitat and reduce sediment delivery to streams. In one project, a culvert was seeded with rock to improve fish passage.

The Toledo Unit of the ***West Oregon District*** completed the administration of an OWEB project in September. Ron Eckfield, Service Forester at the Toledo Unit, developed, applied for, and administered the project that involved the replacement of a culvert on an unnamed tributary to Wright Creek. Wright Creek is located in the lower Yaquina River Basin. Ron worked with a representative of the Fred VanEck trust lands to accomplish this project which will greatly improve fish passage for coho, chinook and chum salmon in addition to steelhead and cutthroat trout. This project removed a barrier to fish passage and provided new/improved access (depending on species) for over 3/4 of a mile of stream.

ODF 3.2: Conifer Restoration

Jay Worley, a Service Forester in the ***Forest Grove District***, conducted a hardwood conversion block assessment involving riparian management area planting and recommended a prescription for successful establishment along McCoon Creek in the Upper Nehalem Watershed.

ODF 3.5: Active Placement of Large Wood during Forest Operations

ODF staff in the Tillamook District worked with a private forest landowner to place large wood in 1000 feet of stream to improve habitat.

ODF 3.6: 25 Percent In-Unit Leave Tree Placement and Additional Voluntary Retention

Jay Worley, a Service Forester with the ***Forest Grove District***, provided direction for in-unit leave trees on the Lin Farm operation, recommending an additional 75% in-unit trees be retained along Type F streams in the Lower Columbia Watershed.

ODF 4: ODF Regulatory Activities

ODF 4.7: Fish Presence Surveys

Tillamook District Forest Practices Foresters worked with forest landowners to survey three small streams for fish, and trout were present in all three. Snorkeling surveys to determine fish densities were also conducted at other locations.

ODF 5 State Forests Management Activities

ODF 5.1: State Forest Lands Road Erosion and Risk Project

A number of road improvement projects were completed in the **Tillamook State Forest**. Fish passage improvement projects include the replacement of 14 culverts, installation of 70 additional cross drain structures, and one bridge. A total of 1,413 miles of road have been inventoried to date. During the 3rd quarter, 14 miles of road were improved, 13 miles rocked, and 120 cubic yards of side-cast retrieved, while .8 miles was converted to trails and .3 miles of new road was constructed.

A number of road improvement projects were completed in the **Forest Grove District**. Fish passage improvement projects include six culvert installations (two on tributaries to Gales Creek in the Tualatin River Basin, and four on tributaries to the North Fork Wolf Creek in the Nehalem River Basin), resulting in approximately four miles of upstream habitat now accessible to fish. In addition one and one-tenth miles of road were vacated in the North Fork Trask River. Eight cross-drain culverts were installed to reduce sediment flow to streams. A bridge was installed at **South Fork Camp** on Tuffy Creek, a tributary to the South Fork Wilson River. This bridge will replace two culverts on Tuffy Creek that previously impeded upstream migration of juvenile fish, resulting in approximately one-half mile of upstream habitat now accessible to fish.

ODF 5.5: State Forestlands Stream Habitat Assessment and Instream Projects

Staff in the **Forest Grove District** completed a number of stream enhancement projects consisting of the placement of large wood structures to increase stream complexity. Twenty structures were placed in Lousignont Creek, nine in the South Fork of Rock Creek, and four in Bear Creek.

ODF 6: Assistance to Family Forest Landowners

ODF 6.3: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Jay Worley, a Service Forester with the **Forest Grove District**, approved the DeJaeger 40 acre CREP riparian planting on a tributary of the Nehalem River. Jay also conducted the field assessment and wrote the CREP plan for Bill Hogan for 100 acres along Fishhawk Creek.

ODF 8: Cooperative Efforts in Information, Assistance, and Education

ODF 8.1: Planning and Coordination

Tillamook District staff assisted landowners conducting various monitoring required under the Army Corps of Engineers' Regional General Permit, such as developing plan view drawings, cross-sections, photo points, and reports.

Tillamook District staff assisted volunteers from the Association of NW Steelheaders (ANWS) to place some smaller woody debris into recently completed structures on Ben Smith Creek. Volunteers from the ANWS have proposed adopting Ben Smith Creek as an ongoing project. Research has indicated a need for salmon and steelhead spawning surveys, aquatic inventory surveys, carcass placement, adding small woody debris to existing structures, riparian plantings, trash cleanup, and an amphibian study as possible projects.

South Coast Region

ODF 3 Voluntary Private Landowner/Operator Activities

ODF 3.1: Road Erosion and Risk Project

Forest Practice Foresters in the **Douglas District** evaluated several large culverts for replacement. Landowners were willing to replace these culverts, and with input from ODFW, significantly increased useable wetlands. Staff also assisted landowners in writing plans to provide for vacating 4500 feet of road near a large Type F stream, and the replacement of several large culverts, which were below standards.

ODF 3.5: Active Placement of Large Wood During Forest Operations

Forest Practice Foresters in the **Douglas District** assisted landowners in developing several alternate harvest plans to allow felling into the riparian management area, which will significantly increase the amount of large wood placed directly in the stream channel.

ODF 4: ODF Regulatory Activities

ODF 4.9: Improved Fish Passage BMPs on Stream Crossing Structures

Forest Practice Foresters in **Douglas District** assisted landowners with the removal and replacement of several large culverts which were below standard.

ODF 4.15: Improved Interagency Coordination of Forestland Use Changes

A Forest Practice Forester in **Southwest Oregon District** coordinated with the DEQ on a riparian complaint. Although it was not a commercial operation, the FPF met on site to discuss with the landowner the need to repair damage to

streamside vegetation. The DEQ has taken over the complaint and will ensure the landowner complies with the FPF's recommendations.

ODF 8: Cooperative Efforts in Information, Assistance, and Education

ODF 8.1: Planning and Coordination

Steve Truesdell, with the **Douglas District**, provided input to the Southwest Interagency Group on ODF concerns and recommendations for OWEB funding for proposed projects in the Umpqua Watershed.

ODF 9: Awards and Recognition

ODF 9.1: Landowner Stewardship Award

A Service Forester in the **Douglas District** evaluated a fish habitat enhancement project on a private landowners' property and provided the write-up and recommendation to the ODFW for the SWO Stewardship Award for non-industrial landowners.

Willamette Region

ODF 3: Voluntary Private Landowner/Operator Activities

ODF 3.1: Road Erosion and Risk Project

Scott Proctor, a Forest Practice Forester in the **Linn District**, participated in on-site assessments with ODF monitoring and hydrology staff and landowner representatives of four 1999 culvert replacements that resulted in over two miles of streams becoming accessible to fish in the Calapooia drainage. In addition, Scott assisted industry landowners/operators in planning and implementing four additional culvert replacement projects, accessing approximately 1.5 miles of stream reach in various watersheds.

Mark Slaten, a Forest Practice Forester in the **East Lane District**, worked with forest industry landowners to upgrade five culverts to allow fish passage and the installation of a concrete bridge to replace a double-barrel sub-standard pipe. Mark also worked with two family farm and forest landowners to upgrade two culverts to allow fish passage.

ODF 3.2: Conifer Restoration

Mark Slaten, a Forest Practice forester in the **East Lane District**, worked with two family farm and forest landowners to convert 800 feet of large Type F stream from brush to conifer. While ODF 3.2 typically refers to conifer restoration in areas dominated by hardwoods, this assistance best fits under this category.

ODF 3.5: Active Placement of Large Wood During Forest Operation

Jay Worley, Service Forester in the ***Forest Grove District***, participated in a large wood procurement and placement project for the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council on the Gourlay Creek.

ODF 3.6: 25 Percent In-Unit Leave Tree Placement and Additional Voluntary Retention

Kevin Crowell, a Forest Practice Forester in the ***Linn District***, worked with a forest industry landowner to develop a written plan which retained additional trees above the FPA requirements along 1200 feet of a small Type F stream.

ODF 8 Cooperative Efforts in Information, Assistance, and Education

ODF 8.1: Planning and Coordination

East Lane District staff provided assistance to the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council to develop and adopt their charter, and provided technical assistance to the McKenzie Watershed Council.

ODF 8.3: Training Programs and Other Contacts

Scott Proctor, Forest Practice Forester in the ***Linn District***, gave a presentation to approximately 50 public school teachers in Marion County regarding riparian management regulations during forest operations.

Eastern Oregon Region

ODF staff in the Eastern Oregon Region were heavily involved with fire fighting during the 3rd quarter and will provide input at a later date.

Other Oregon Plan Activities

There are no “Other Oregon Plan Activities” to report this quarter.