

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Study Session Worksheet

**Presentation Date:** July 29, 2014 **Approx. Start Time:** 1:30 pm. **Approx. Length:** 30 minutes

**Presentation Title:** Boulder 2014 Timber Sale Update

**Department:** BCS/County Parks & Forest

**Presenters:** Rick Gruen, Parks & Forest Manager; Gary Barth, BCS Director

**Other Invitees:** Dan Green, County Forester (retired); Laura Zentner, BCS Deputy Director

### WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Update and approval of the Boulder 2014 Timber Sale

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### **Current Status:**

At the June 17, 2014 study session, the Board of County Commissioners considered options for the Boulder 2014 Timber Sale which included:

1. Directing the County Parks & Forest Manager to proceed with the Boulder 2014 timber sale as detailed in the Boulder Harvest Plan.
2. Directing the County Parks & Forest Manager to delay moving forward with the Boulder 2014 timber sale for a period of 30 days in order to negotiate in good faith with Western Rivers Conservancy on their purchase offer of 140 acres (land and timber) of the Boulder property.
3. Directing the County Parks & Forest Manager to not sell any/all portions of the Boulder 2014 timber sale.

The Board directed staff to pursue Option 2 with the following considerations: 1) A fair and reasonable price must be offered for the standing timber commensurate with the price County Parks & Forest would expect to receive from its planned timber sale; 2) A fair and reasonable price must be offered for the land that would allow County Parks & Forest the ability to purchase comparable forestland elsewhere in Clackamas County; and 3) County Parks & Forest can proceed to harvest the remaining 200 acres under a revised Boulder 2014 Harvest Plan.

Staff was also directed to bring back the terms of the purchase offer to the BCC by the close of the 30 day negotiation period for consideration. To the extent a purchase offer could not be supported, the BCC would direct County Parks & Forest to proceed with Option 1 and move forward with the Boulder 2014 Timber Sale.

#### **Background:**

County Parks & Forest, a division of Business and Community Services, owns and manages approximately 3,000 acres of timberland. This income generating asset provides 25 to 30 percent of the annual revenue required for operating and maintaining the County Park system and fully funds the Forest Program. In comparison, the County General Fund contributes 6 percent. Net revenue from timber sales are placed in County Parks & Forest's Forest Management Fund. Through the budgeting process, a portion of the timber revenue is transferred to County Parks to partially fund its annual operational requirement. The remainder is maintained in the Forest Management Fund as a hedge against fluctuating timber prices or other economic downturns. It has been the longstanding objective of County Parks & Forest to maintain the equivalent of two years of net timber revenue in reserve.

In July, 2013, the BCC approved County Parks & Forest's five year forest management strategy for FY13/14 through FY 2017/18. This strategy included the recently completed Cedar Ridge timber sale and planning for the proposed Boulder 2014 Timber Sale.

The Boulder 2014 timber sale, located south of Hwy 26 near the Brightwood community, is a 340 acre property with an estimated timber harvest volume of 6.4 million board feet. The harvest will cover approximately 186 acres of the 340 acre property and utilizes multi-span skyline, standard skyline and ground-based logging systems. Consistent with County Park's Forest Management Plan and timber sale process, the public has been engaged in the proposed Boulder 2014 timber sale. The County Forester has held 7 public meetings with interested community members, including a site tour to the Boulder property and patio visits with residents of nearby Mt. Hood Village to determine potential viewshed impacts of the timber sale. County Parks & Forest staff have also met or talked with property owners along or adjacent to County Club Lane. The goal of these meetings was to identify and address any public/community concerns regarding the proposed sale and make revisions to the harvest plan to mitigate those concerns where actionable. As a result, the harvest plan has been revised to include:

- Buffers to the North, NW and NE of the site have been increased from Oregon Dept. of Forestry's requirement of 100' to more than 200'. These increased buffer widths will help maintain viewshed, minimize noise disturbance and provide large wood recruitment for instream and riparian habitat enhancement.
- A fifteen acre patch along the ridgeline will be designated as a restricted cut area to maintain treescape and viewshed for residents of Mt. Hood Village.
- A single entry harvest operation will be conducted due to the complexity of harvest and to keep disturbance in the community to a minimum.
- Strict hours of log hauling and road maintenance/abatement requirements will be strictly enforced to minimize disturbance.
- A Geotech engineer will be engaged to: 1) inspect the steep slopes of the sale area and advise and/or make recommendations to County Parks & Forest with regards to slope stability from harvest activity; and 2) make recommendations for road improvements along County Club Lane to support and maintain log truck activity during the course of the timber sale.

On June 5, 2014, the County Forester presented the revised Boulder 2014 Timber Sale and Harvest Plan to the Timber Sale Advisory Committee (TSAC). Four members of the public were in attendance. TSAC considered the updated timber sale prescription and concerns expressed throughout the public engagement process as well as those brought forward in discussion and Q&A. Questions from the public included concerns about whether adequate notice had been given to the community, excessive noise disturbance, view shed impairment, desire for increased buffer widths to 400' and preference for the sale of a portion of the property to Western Rivers Conservancy. Staff was able to assure the public present that the outreach and communication to the public was consistent with past efforts and current policy, view sheds will not be impacted to most property owners with minimal impact of not more than 3 acres to some property owners, noise disturbance from equipment and machinery during a single entry harvest operation will be approximately 30 days out of a potential 2-1/2 year timber contract, and lastly BCS Management is currently reviewing an offer to purchase 140 acres of the sale area recently submitted by Western Rivers Conservancy. It was noted that the number of people expressing concerns to the County Forester or TSAC have commented that the County Forestry Staff have made professional and thoughtful considerations to improving the harvest plan.

After discussion, TSAC recommended approval of the Boulder 2014 Harvest Plan and timber sale in a 3 to 1 vote. One TSAC member not in attendance had submitted his support for the timber sale via letter to the TSAC Chair after reviewing the updated harvest plan and discussion with the County Forester. The TSAC recommendation will be forwarded to the BCC.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):**

This project has not yet gone out for bidding. It is anticipated that the value of the logs on the stump (stumpage value) is estimated to be \$2 million dollars at the projected minimum bid pricing for logs. This sale represents three years of harvest for County Parks & Forest. No further timber sales are likely to be planned until FY17-18 as per the County Parks & Forest sustainable timber management strategy. This anticipated revenue was identified in the current FY2014/15 Parks & Forest budget and will support County Parks operations and maintenance requirements.

### **LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:**

The Boulder 2014 timber sale has been planned consistent with County Parks and Forest's Forest Management Plan and will meet or exceed Oregon Forest Practices rules. The Boulder 2014 Timber Sale and Harvest Plan was presented to both the Forest Advisory Board and Timber Sale Advisory Committee. Both have reviewed and recommended approval of the sale.

### **PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:**

- **April 7, 2014:** Country Club Lane neighborhood meeting to discuss truck impact from logging activities. 7 people in attendance.
- **April 24, 2014:** General public meeting was held at The Resort at the Mountain. 10 people in attendance.
- **May 3, 2014:** Public tour of the Boulder 2014 timber sale and patio inspections with residents of the Mt. Hood Village. 25 people in attendance.
- **May 8, 2014:** Mt. Hood Village meeting. 40 people in attendance.
- **June 5, 2014:** Timber Sale Advisory Committee meeting. 4 people attendance. It should be noted that there was a Mountain Times article about the proposed Boulder 2014 timber sale that incorrectly printed the TSAC meeting as being on June 6. County Forester informed TSAC that he would be present on June 6 should anybody show up.
- **June 6, 2014:** County Forester was on hand to meet the public. 2 people showed up and met with County Forester for about an hour. No new technical issues were raised.
- In addition to the public meetings, the County Forester posted several meeting notices in the local papers and responded to direct or forwarded inquiries via email and phone.
- **June 17, 2014:** Study session with BCC to review the Boulder timber sale and presale activities; make recommendation to consider purchase offer and/or move forward with sale.

### **OPTIONS:**

1. Direct the County Parks & Forest Manager to reject an Offer to Purchase from Western Rivers Conservancy for a portion of the Boulder property which consists of approximately 140 acres of land and timber. County Parks & Forest staff have spent the past month discussing the purchase offer with Western Rivers Conservancy and identified critical valuation deficiencies in the federal Yellow Book appraisal process for stumpage and land values. Accepting the Offer to Purchase will have a significant negative impact on County Parks & Forest annual financial requirements and erode the forest asset base.
2. Direct the County Parks & Forest Manager to proceed with the Boulder 2014 timber sale as proposed in the Harvest Plan. If this option is approved, Boulder 2014 bid packets will be mailed out in mid to late September with a sealed bid opening scheduled for mid to late October. This option will have a positive impact on the County Parks & Forest budget and is consistent with the adopted Forest Management Plan.
3. Direct County Park & Forest Manager to not sell any/all portions of the Boulder 2014 timber sale. This option would have a significant negative impact on the Parks and Forest budget and would jeopardize the long term financial sustainability of County Parks operations.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

County Parks & Forest staff supports Option 1 and further requests that the BCC direct staff to proceed with Option 2. This recommendation is consistent with the direction provided at the June 17, 2014 study session.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Boulder 2014 Harvest Plan – Revised June 9, 2014

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Division Director/Head Approval 

Department Director/Head Approval 

County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_

## **Fiscal Impact Form – Instructions**

### **RESOURCES:**

Is this item in your current work plan and budget?

YES

NO

### **START-UP EXPENSES AND STAFFING (if applicable):**

The County's Forest program is currently managed according to the adopted Forest Management Plan. Forest program is staffed by a County Forester, one full-time Forestry Technician and one part-time Forestry Technician. .

### **ONGOING OPERATING EXPENSES/SAVINGS AND STAFFING (if applicable):**

County forests are managed on a sustainable yield basis, whereby annual harvests are roughly equivalent to annual growth based on a 45-55-year rotation. The annual timber harvest contributes approximately 25-30% to overall County Parks revenue and is critical for meeting annual operation and maintenance requirements.

### **ANTICIPATED RESULTS:**

With a minimum bid received for the Boulder 2014 timber sale, County Parks & Forest would receive approximately \$2 million in stumpage value. This represents approximately three years in revenue from timber harvests. A sale of a portion of the Boulder property would need to provide a proportionate contribution at fair market value for the logs and also allow for asset replacement. The Offer to Purchase falls considerably short in meeting this requirement.

County Parks & Forest receives only about 6% of its budget from general funds. To be sustainable, County Parks & Forest requires predictable and consistent revenue streams from the combination of asset generating income: timber sales, golf course fee revenue, Boones Marina lease income, direct park fees as well as State RV registration fees (formula share to Counties) and General Fund contributions.

### **COSTS & BENEFITS:**

Anticipated timber sales can be managed by existing staff. Cost and benefits are detailed in the attached spreadsheet. N/A

<b>Costs:</b>							
	Item	Hours	Start-up Capital	Other Start-up	Annual Operations	Annual Capital	TOTAL
	Capital purchase						
	Office infrastructure						
	Training						
	<b>Total Start-up Costs</b>						
	<b>Ongoing Annual Costs</b>						
<b>Benefits/Savings:</b>							
	Item	Hours	Start-up Capital	Other Start-up	Annual Operations	Annual Capital	TOTAL
	Debt Service Savings						\$
	<b>Total Benefit/Savings</b>						\$



**TIMBER HARVEST PLAN**  
**Boulder 2014 Timber Sale**

As of June 9, 2014



Dan Green  
County Forester  
FOREST PROGRAM  
(503) 742-4425  
[dgreen@clackamas.us](mailto:dgreen@clackamas.us)

## **SITE EVALUATION**

### **Boulder 2014 Timber Sale**

*Please be aware that this is an evolving document. It will change over time as the sale planning progresses. The effective date of this draft is shown on the first page.*

#### **LOCATION AND SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

The Boulder 2014 Timber Sale is located in Section 36, T. 2 S., R. 6 E. WM about 2 miles by road south of Hwy 26 and south of Country Club Road. The sale will harvest approximately 6,400 thousand board feet (MBF) of timber (4,710 MBF Douglas-fir, 930 MBF hemlock, 130 MBF cedar and 630 MBF hardwoods). The harvest will cover approximately 186 acres of the 340 acre property using multi-span skyline, standard skyline and ground-based logging systems. There are 3 acres of stream buffers and 12 acres of view buffers in the sale area. The harvested area will be replanted with Douglas-fir and western red cedar. Western hemlock is expected to seed in naturally. Flatter portions of the area will be loader-piled and the piles may be burned. Steeper areas will be left un-piled and unburned. Net sale proceeds will be deposited in the County Parks Forest Management Fund for park and forest operations. Each year proceeds from timber harvest fund about 1/3 of County Parks operations. This sale represents three years of harvest. The value of the logs “on the stump” is approximately \$2 million at the minimum bid.

#### **SETTING**

This area can be described as upland forest in the Douglas-fir-western hemlock-red cedar forest type, a forest type common in Western Oregon. Most of the acreage is covered by conifers and hardwoods that became established after a fire early in the 1900s. The common hardwoods in the area are big leaf maple and red alder. Portions of the property were harvested by timber trespass in the late 1970s. Additional harvests were made over the last 12 years. There are two well-defined stream courses on the property and the Salmon River is just north of the property.

The property is highest in the south. It drops steeply to a broad, gently sloping ridge top and then drops very steeply to a flat which is located at the north end of the property just south of the Salmon River.

The property lies at the end of a forest road that takes off from the end of Country Club Road.

#### **GEOLOGY & SOILS**

The soils in the area are mainly Achoff series with Bull Run and Brightwood series soils mixed in. The flat next to the Salmon River is Jimbo soil. These soils are productive soils for forest production with site indexes from 130 to 165. Steeper areas need to be logged using skyline machines to avoid erosion. Road construction on steep areas will not be necessary for this operation.

#### **VEGETATION**

The vegetation is the common mix of forest vegetation that would be expected in a cooler, wetter upland forest. The dominant evergreen trees are Douglas-fir and hemlock. The dominant hardwood is big leaf maple in the south and alder in the north. The timber is 100 to 110 years of age in the south of the



property and somewhat younger as you go north. The stand is not homogenous. There are stands of hardwoods in some areas and conifers in others. The maple is unusually tall and straight.

## **ANIMALS & FISH**

This forest is more remote than its physical location would suggest. There is very light use by the public so wildlife is largely undisturbed. There is no known use by threatened or endangered species. Common forest animals would be expected to be present at a somewhat greater rate than would be found closer to neighborhoods. The streams on the property are too steep to harbor fish.

An area with large trees which is not part of the sale area has been designated for producing trees for use in stream restoration projects off site. This sale should not affect those trees.

Eagles use the Salmon River area near the sale for feeding and roosting but there are no nests known to be in the area. There is no reason to think that our activity will affect the eagles.

## **TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

The property is reached by taking Country Club Road south off Highway 26 in the Brightwood area. Country Club Road is a public road which changes to a private road at its end. From the bridge over Boulder Creek a forest road continues through BLM land and enters County property about 1.5 miles from Hwy 26. The County property is serviced by rocky forest roads. Clackamas County has rights-of-way across the private road and the BLM road.

Clackamas County Parks and Forest will be responsible for the road maintenance on Country Club Road during the timber sale use. The road surface was tilled, rocky, graded and compacted in January. Drainage issues and other necessary road improvement to support log truck traffic will be assessed by the County's Road Maintenance Department this spring and summer. The County Engineering section will develop that plan in conjunction with geotechnical engineers.

There is an agreement concerning road maintenance on Country Club Road during times of County use for logging. The anticipated level of road maintenance and improvements we plan for Country Club Road during the Boulder timber sale should more than meet that requirement.

## **FIRE & FUELS**

Slash will be piled where it is accessible and those piles will likely be burned. Slash in steep areas will not be piled or burned.

## **AIR QUALITY**

If piles are burned, smoke will be produced for parts of one or two days. All burning will be done under the permitting and regulation of the Oregon Department of Forestry.

## **WATER QUALITY**

There are two stream systems in the harvest area. They are not fish streams and no buffer is required but we will buffer them with a 20-foot variable width buffer on each side of the stream. Logging will be

designed so that stream channels and banks are protected. Stream crossings, where needed, will be made with clean rock fills, not soil, and will be designed to allow overflow during times of heavy runoff. After the sale is complete the fills will be removed.

## **RECREATION & PUBLIC USE**

Recreational use of the Boulder property appears to have been limited. County forest properties are open to hiking, fishing, mushrooming, berry picking, picnicking, horseback riding and most other types of day-use recreation. Overnight use is not allowed. Off-road vehicle use, target shooting and camp fires are not allowed.

Public firewood cutting will not be permitted for this sale. Firewood logs may be donated to a local charity if a charity were willing to remove the logs from County property in a defined, short period of time.

Public use will not be allowed during times of active logging.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Michael Jones indicated that he had information on cultural resources that we did not credit in our planning. We have sent him copies of the Raedeke Associates report done for the County in 1995. As we get additional pertinent information we will include it here.

Our time spent on site shows no sign of unique or uncommon cultural resources except for the old road used to access the property and occasional signs of old logging.

## **VISUAL CONCERNS**

This harvest will not be very visible from Highway 26 or from residences in the Brightwood area. If a person happened to be in an area where there were not tall trees, parts of the sale area might be visible at a distance. But in the flats along the Salmon and Sandy rivers there are few areas without such trees. The sale area would be visible from the Mt. Hood Rock Products pit and from any overlooks in the mountains north of Hwy 26. These are not very public places.

Portions of the sale area would be visible from Mt. Hood Village (about 15 acres) and from two vantage points on Brightwood Loop Road. In most instances the activity will be partially or completely screened by trees. However, residents of Mt. Hood Village have been very concerned about the visual aspects of the harvest as seen from their neighborhood. A meeting was held on May 8 to discuss these concerns. County staff offered to leave the maple and alder trees standing in the area which can be seen from the Ridge Road portion of the Mt. Hood Village (approximately 12 acres). This should greatly reduce the visibility of the harvest area. Conifer trees will be harvested in the view area and some hardwoods will be cut for skyline corridors.

## **NOISE, DUST AND MUD CONCERNS**

There will not be much impact on the surrounding area from logging noise. Mt. Hood (RV) Village will be closest to the logging. The closest landing to the Village will be about 1/2 mile away. The further landing is over 1 mile away. At that distance the noise should be similar to the noise from traffic on Hwy

26. Skyline yarding machines use horns to signal from the woods to the landing. These signals will be audible in the distance.

The act of hauling logs down Country Club Road will subject that neighborhood to noise and, depending upon time of year, dust. The sale contract will be very clear that trucks must drive slowly and as quietly as possible when transiting the residential area. Heavy hauling in or out of the job will be limited to hours after 5 AM and until 9 PM, Monday through Thursday. On Fridays hauling may begin at 5 AM but must stop at 6 PM and will not start again until 5 AM on Monday. Activity on the sale area that does not involve heavy hauling may happen at other hours.

If dust is a problem even at slow speed, we will require the logger to wet down the road daily. If mud becomes a problem we will require the logger to apply more rock or do other appropriate maintenance.

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Boulder property is listed as Category III forest property in the County Forest Management Plan. Category III land is managed for timber production on a 55-year rotation. The timber in this sale is well over the 55-year rotation age—generally 80 to 110 years old.

About half of the area is technically difficult to log due to steep slopes and lack of road access. Forty acres in the extreme southwest corner of the property will require multi-span skyline or helicopter yarding. The rest of the timber in that 83 acre southern unit will require downhill skyline yarding.

The 103-acre unit (100 acres of logging and 3 acres of riparian buffer) to the north of the property has traditional uphill skyline yarding and shovel logging. It has good road opportunities and will be relatively easy to log. A 12-acre partial-cut area is part of the unit. Maple, alder and some conifer trees will be left to buffer the view from Mt. Hood Village. Most conifer trees will be removed from this area and skyline corridors will be cut through it as needed.

A road extension will be needed to reach the north area. This narrow forest road will be located on fairly flat ground and on a ridge top. Construction will be relatively easy. The centerline of this road is marked on the ground with blue and white polka dot flagging and also with orange and white stripe flagging. Portions of this road will be fairly steep, about 20% adverse. A temporary stream crossing will be built using clean rock (no soil) and an appropriate culvert. The Oregon Department of Forestry has been consulted to ensure this stream crossing meets their requirements. When our use is finished, the fill will be breeched or removed. The road will be blocked and abandoned when our use is finished.

There will be 183 acres harvested in this activity with about 6.4 million board feet of timber. A normal annual harvest for the County is about 50 acres with 2 million board feet of timber. So this timber sale will satisfy the harvests for FY 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17. It makes more sense on an operation of this complexity to do it in one entry instead of three. In addition some neighbors have also expressed a preference for one logging job instead of two or three. No one has argued for multiple, smaller entries.

A geotechnical engineer is being brought in to review our logging plan and provide his opinion as to whether our operations will increase the risk of landslides and whether there are any measures we could take to further reduce that risk. Based on that opinion we may adjust our plan.

## **PLANNED REFORESTATION ACTIVITIES**

Reforestation will be done by planting the areas harvested using Douglas-fir and western red cedar seedlings. Natural seeding of hemlock and hardwood species is expected. Douglas-fir and cedar will be planted at a total rate of 400 trees per acre. Normally planting will occur in the March or April immediately following the harvest. If harvesting finishes in the fall or winter, planting will be delayed for one year so that logging slash can dry out and seedlings can be ordered. Planting would be expected to take about 7 work days.

## **PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS**

On August 26, 2013 a public meeting was held to talk about the Cedar Ridge sale proposal and the proposed sale on Boulder. Advertisements of the meeting were placed in the Sandy Post and the Mountain Times newspapers. The local CPOs were notified by email. Seven neighbors attended the meeting including the president of the Mt. Hood Corridor CPO. Comments about the sale and about timber harvesting in general were somewhat negative, but a good, broad discussion ensued.

On September 12, 2013 we presented the 5-year harvest plan to the Mt. Hood Corridor CPO. Attendance was sparse. Only two neighbors attended who were not at the previous meeting. Almost all of the attention was focused on the Boulder sale.

A neighborhood meeting was held on April 7, 2014 to discuss truck traffic in the Country Club Road neighborhood. Seven neighbors attended. Concerns expressed dealt with additional work required on the road and on truck interactions with cars. One suggestion was that we get a traffic light system so trucks could flash a warning of their approach to on-coming cars. (We need to learn about these systems and see what can be done.) Another questioned the width of the entry onto Hwy 26. (On inspection on April 8, the entry seems entirely adequate.) There was general worry that County staff might not watch the sale very closely. (Staff will be at the job for a portion of almost every day of operation.) There was a question as to why State Fish and Wildlife staff members were not more involved. (We have invited them to provide input.) There were questions about how closely we would cut to Boulder Creek (Our closest harvest is about 600 feet away from Boulder Creek.) and whether our harvest would trigger landslides. (We do not think the risk of landslides is any greater whether we cut or not. Plus we will be using skyline logging which minimizes ground disturbance.) There was concern about road traffic and road maintenance but no requests to do more than we have outlined elsewhere in this plan.

A general public information meeting was held on April 24 at The Resort at the Mountain. About 10 members of the public attended as well as four County staff and three County volunteers. Concerns dealt with the view from Mt. Hood Village, with the adequacy of our buffer on the Salmon River, with the wisdom of cutting timber when an exchange might be possible, and with County Parks funding

A public tour of the Boulder timber sale was held on May 3. About 25 general public attended, almost all of them residents of Mt. Hood Village. Four staff members (Green, Rice, Sanguinetti, Wiley) attended as did Steve Wilent and Len Kirschner of the Timber Sale Advisory Committee. We first traveled to the Village and analyzed the view of the sale from various public and private viewing areas. It seemed that many of the folks were reassured that, because of screening by closer trees, they were going to see very little change in the view from their cottage.

But others were not so fortunate. Several of the participants will have a view of the sale, although no one we talked with will see more than 2 or 3 acres of it. We offered to leave some trees in the area of the sale that is visible.

A couple of cottages are fairly close to our northeast property corner. As currently laid out, they will be about 400 feet from the cutting boundary. We will alter the sale to move the boundary about 100 feet further away from the northeast corner. This will also help with concerns expressed earlier about more buffer width to protect fish.

About half of the participants left the tour at this point. The rest continued on to the timber sale area where we discussed the logging and the road building. Concerns were few. In general, the group was curious about what we were planning but not critical.

During discussions, it was pointed out that eagles frequent this area. We checked with Oregon Department of Forestry and they are not aware of any nests in or around our operation area. They advised that unless the birds are nesting, there are no special protections needed.

A meeting with Mt. Hood Village residents was held on May 8 at the Mt. Hood Village. About 40 people attended, perhaps 30 of who were from the Village. Concerns largely focused on the view from the Village. County staff agreed to leave the hardwoods (mostly maple) standing on about 12 acres of the timber sale directly facing and visible from the upper portion of the Village. We will remove conifer trees from that view area if we can get to them without undue damage to the hardwoods. And we will cut skyline roads through the hardwoods to get to the trees beneath them.

There was also a request that we have a geotech look at the steep areas of the sale and provide advice as to slope stability. (Clackamas County does not have a geotech on staff but we are contracting with a consulting geotech to visit the site and advise us if our harvest plan does everything it could to log in a manner that will not increase the risk of slides.) The meeting was intense at times but no new technical issues or suggestions were raised. Commissioner Bernard attended and handled a number of County policy questions.

A Timber Sale Advisory Committee meeting was held at 6:00 PM on June 5. Four members of the public attended, three from Mt. Hood (RV) Village and one from the Lolo Pass area. One member of the TSAC, Steve Wilent, was not able to attend. Discussions are documented in the minutes but major points of interest had to do with the width of the buffers next to Salmon River and the impact of the operations on the Mt. Hood Village residents. There was also discussion about the possibility that Western Rivers Conservancy would buy part of the property. County agreed to increase the northwestern buffer on the Salmon River slightly so that it would be about 200 feet wide. In the opinion of County staff, that width should be ample. The TSAC voted 3 to 1 to recommend the sale go forward. Len Kirschner voted against the sale as a way to bring focus on what he views as a flawed notification process. Staff will explore that issue with him and see what changes should be made.

There was a newspaper article printed about June 1 that mistakenly listed the date of the TSAC meeting as June 6. Since that announcement was so prominent, staff went to the DSB Building on the evening of June 6 to explain the mistake to anyone that might come. Two people showed up and discussed the sale with Dan Green for an hour. No new technical issues were raised.

A work session of the Board of County Commissioners will consider this sale on June 17. Based upon the directions of the BCC this sale will either (1) progress as is, or (2) be held until issues such as the Western Rivers offer can be considered, or (3) be tabled indefinitely.

If the sale goes ahead as is, it will go out to bid about June 19. If the sale is delayed, it would probably be advertised for bid in mid-July. The sale would be sold about 1 month after it is advertised and would be completed by November 1, 2016.

Public input is welcomed by the County Forest Program staff. Dan Green can be reached at 503 742 4425 or at dgreen@clackamas.us.

## **ALTERNATIVES TO HARVESTING**

At least two alternatives to harvesting have been discussed. One is to exchange the entire Boulder property and other County-owned timber property in the Hwy 26 corridor with the BLM. County Parks and Forest favor the idea of an exchange but also recognize the very long timelines involved. Exchanges with BLM are very rare and typically mandated by an act of Congress. The last exchange the County did with the USFS took 5 years after it was ordered by Congress. Regardless of harvesting, the County will still be interested in an exchange, if Congress or the BLM can be persuaded to act. But we cannot delay the harvest of timber on the Boulder property in the hope that some future date will bring an exchange. The revenue from the harvest is needed to run the County Parks for the next three years.

The second alternative harvesting option is to sell part of the property to BLM via the Western Rivers Conservancy. WRC submitted an offer to purchase the eastern 140 acres of Boulder Creek. At this time County Parks and Forest is reviewing the terms and consideration of that offer. If acceptable terms can be reached on the land sale, the timber sale will be adjusted so that no trees are cut on the 140 acres. That would leave about 60 acres of skyline logging to be done in the southwestern part of the Boulder 2014 sale. If WRC and the County cannot reach a mutually acceptable agreement, the work on the timber sale as planned in this document would continue.



**Boulder 2014 Timber Sale ... Project #02-14**  
Clackamas County Forest Program  
Section 36, T. 2 S., R. 6 E. W. M.

Scale: 1 inch equals 900 feet

