



Timber Sale Advisory Committee
November 29, 2022
Development Services Building
Room 119
6pm

Timber Sale Advisory Committee Members Present: Brent Keller, Dan Green, Louise Lopes, Eric Pfeiffer-Robinson, Marge Stewart

County Staff Present: Andrew Dobmeier, Tom Riggs, Sarah Eckman Chris Dannenbring

Public Guests: None

Brent Keller called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

1. Introductions

Members and staff introduced themselves.

2. Meeting Purpose – Process - Protocols

Chris talked about the purpose of the Timber Sale Advisory Committee and Dan Green spoke to the role the members have on the committee. Chris noted the sale is the next regularly scheduled sale in the 2018 Forest Management Plan approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Chris spoke to the public process that has already taken place before the meeting, and noted there were no comments received from the public during the 30 day comment period between the October 25, public meeting and tonight's meeting.

3. Proposed Wild-Trout Timber Sale

Andrew Dobmeier, County Forester, led the committee through the proposed Wild-Trout harvest plan dated October 25, 2022 attached to these minutes. This plan is for three years of harvest activities under the 2018 Forest Management Plan. Sale details are bulleted below-

- Sale is located in the County's Wildcat tract southeast of the Firwood community.
- Sales will harvest approximately 3.0 million board feet (MMBF) of timber over a 3-year period.
- Units #1 and #2 will be sold first in early 2023 under the Wild-Trout Timber Sale. Total MMBF from these 2 units is approximately 1.748, consisting of 1,481 MBF Douglas-fir, 231 MBF Hemlock/white wood, and 36 MBF Western Red Cedar.
- Unit #3 is 35 acres of approximately 369 MBF Douglas-fir, 106 MBF white wood and 16 MBF cedar.
- A total of net value worth approximately \$1,203,641 at today's prices.
- The harvest will cover approximately 87 total acres in three units using ground-based logging systems. The steepest sections of the harvest area are 45% slopes. Vegetation is natural brush and some scotch broom. The first two units will be advertised as one sale to be sold in January 2023, with the purchaser having up to two years to harvest. Unit # 3 will be harvested in 2024 or 2025 depending on the market conditions.
- The logging slash and brush on moderately sloping ground will be loader-piled as narrow and tall as possible by the purchaser and burned by the County. This creates as much area as possible for reforestation. Small areas of steeper ground will be logged as cleanly as possible but may not be piled. All burning will be done under the permitting and regulations of DEQ

- and OR Dept. of Forestry. Typically burn activities take place in November when the forest has been thoroughly soaked by the fall rains, which protects from any fires getting out of control.
- We are not aware of any cultural resources in the three units so no adverse effects are anticipated.
 - The harvested area will be reforested with Douglas-fir, western red cedar and possibly western white pine. Hardwoods and Western hemlock are expected to seed in naturally.
 - Wildlife in the units are typical for the area and include deer, elk, bobcat, and mountain lions.
 - There is a small fish bearing creek on the lower sections of Units #1 and #2 called Trout Creek, and on the lower section of Unit #3 is the North Fork of Eagle Creek. 70 – 110-foot buffers will be placed along the creeks. Roads will be maintained to minimize sediment runoff during harvest.
 - Clusters of trees will be left throughout the unit as is required under the OR State Forest Practices Act. Any dead snag trees will be left for wildlife habitat.
 - The Wild Trout sale is accessed by Wildcat Mountain Drive (FS3600) and graveled spur roads. There will need to be approximately 1,275 of road reconstructed by adding a new 4 inch lift of rock on the north side of unit #2. There will be a newly constructed tie through road to access unit #3. The two new segments will total approximately 1,615 feet. Included in that new construction is a fish passage culvert which will be designed and installed. This culvert is on a small tributary of North Fork Eagle creek located in the west edge of unit #3. Other temporary spurs will be added to harvest timber. The roads will be left to grow in naturally.
 - Revenue from this sale will pay for forest program operations and help to support Clackamas County Park improvements.
 - The public meeting was held on October 25, and three citizens and one TSAC member attended. The site tour was held on October 27 with two citizens and three TSAC members attended. Chair Keller toured the site with Forestry staff on another day. We received no public comments during our 30 day public comment period.

TSAC members asked further questions of Andrew related to the sale. Response and clarification data is noted as follows:

- Clarification was needed on where the new gate would be installed. Andrew said it will be on the property line between our lands and Weyerhaeuser's.
- Is there any stipulation on when the logger can or can't harvest? Andrew gave an example related to wildlife rearing that would restrict when we harvest, but said we don't have any such restrictions on our property, so no, there are no such stipulations. If we got into a fire season we would know what the logging hour restrictions are and we'd communicate those types of things to the logger.
- Did the State numbers change for reforestation requirements? Dan noted the State had reviewed reforestation requirements (number of trees to be planted per-acre) and reduced the number to 200/acre but the County has planted an average of 400-450/acre. Andrew said the exact number for his reforest plan is 436/acre. Brent said at one time the philosophy was 600/acre but that was never the requirement by the State.
- The creek buffers are larger than the OR State Forest Practices Act requirement, is the 70-110 foot buffer planned for this sale a County standard? Andrew addressed the question and said we always apply a wider buffer than OSFPA requirements. These specific numbers pertain to current rule requirements, and pending OSFPA rule changes to increase buffers. The County will adhere to the requirements in place at the time of harvest.

- Confirmation was requested on where the fish passage culvert was going. Andrew noted where the road will be constructed across the creek in Unit #3, we will install a fish passage culvert.
- Assuming the committee votes to approve, what is the timeframe to get Units #1 and #2 logged? Andrew said after approval this would go to the Commissioners for a briefing. We will work with County Procurement in December to get the sale advertised. Bid openings would likely be in late January. The logger would have discretion when to harvest based on market.
- What age classes do we have in the County's other forest tracts? Andrew noted we lost several hundred acres of our middle age classes during the 2020 wildfires. Right now we have a lot of younger stands because of the accelerated harvests that were completed in 2013/14. Dan noted that out of the stands that remain in the County's inventory, these tracts in Wildcat are prime. Andrew said the units in this sale have 65-95 year old trees.
- What is the timing of selling Unit #3? Andrew said he will watch the markets over the next year or two and will put the sale of Unit #3 out to get the most value for the County.
- Marge noted some of the gates along our Wildcat tracts need to have better gate number signage. Andrew will work to correct this.

After discussion concluded Chair Keller called for a vote. Dan made a motion to approve the Wild-Tout timber sales as the County Forester has proposed. Marge seconded the motion. Discussion after the motions: Louise noted she is categorically against the County having timber sales and believes the County should look for other ways to provide revenues for County Parks. Eric noted he would like to see the County provide more General Fund support to County Parks. Chris called for a vote. Members in favor were Brent, Dan, Marge, and Eric. Louise abstained.

Chair Keller will draft a letter on behalf of the Timber Sale Advisory Committee in support of the sale so it can go to the Commissions.

Good of the Order

None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm