



COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD
January 6, 2020
Development Services Building
Room 119
6pm

Timber Sale Advisory Committee Members Present: Brent Keller, Dan Green, Sally Rask, Louise Lopes, Bill Avison

Forest Advisory Board Members Present: Bill Street

County Staff Present: Andrew Dobmeier, Rick Gruen, Commissioner Humberston, Chris Dannenbring

Public Guests: Numerous citizens were in attendance at the meeting.

Brent Keller called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

1. Proposed Family Camp Timber Sale

Rick Gruen, Manager, County Parks & Forest division of Business and Community Services opened up with an overview of the structure in which Clackamas County operates its timber program.

- Board of County Commission approved our current 10-yr management plan in 2018. The Family Camp sale is the second sale under this plan.
- The County Forester and staff prepare the sale and bring it to the Forest Advisory Board (FAB) for consideration. If the FAB recommends to proceed the Forester advertises and conducts the public meeting, and public tour of the sale property. Those took place November 7, and November 9, 2019.
- Citizen input is gathered during a 45 day waiting period after the public meeting/tour which ended December 24.
- The County Forester brings any adjustments/citizen considerations made to the original proposal to the Timber Sale Advisory Committee after the 45 day waiting period.
- The Timber Sale Advisory Committee (TSAC) is comprised of two members of the Forest Advisory Board, two members of the County Parks Advisory Board, and one citizen at-large member from the community closest to where the timber sale will take place.
- The TSAC is to review the technical merits of the sale at this meeting tonight.

Andrew Dobmeier, County Forester led discussion on the proposed harvest plan dated October 9, 2019 attached to these minutes. Sale details are bulleted below-

- Sale is located approximately 16 miles south of the community of Molalla.
- Sale will harvest approximately 1,615 thousand board feet (MBF) of timber with 1,518 MBF Douglas-fir, 209 MBF hemlock, 39 MBF red alder.
- The harvest will cover approximately 50 acres of the 160 acre property.
- Standard ground-based logging systems will be used.
- The harvested area will be replanted in winter 2021 with Douglas-fir, and western red cedar. Western hemlock and red alder are expected to seed naturally.
- All areas of logging will be loader piled and the piles may be burned the following fall.
- There are special harvest instructions in place whereby slash will be piled on trees which currently contain a root-rot fungus so that when slash piles are burned this will burn out the fungus and prevent future disease in the unit.

- A February 2020 start date is targeted with logging/hauling completed by the end of April.
- Six – twelve loads a day will be hauled.
- Trees range in age from 55 – 80 years.
- Logging roads will be resurfaced with rock to prevent erosion. There is one small non-fish bearing creek in the northwest portion of the unit. No wetlands exist.
- Family Camp property has mild to moderate slopes ranging up to 45% interspersed with flat benches. Soils in the tract are well drained and well suited for tree planting and growing.
- Wildlife present in the unit include deer, elk, black bear, mountain lion, bob cat and all the smaller mammals and birds typical of the upland forests of the Pacific NW.
- The unit was surveyed by county employees and was found to have a low probability of significance for cultural activities. Some old logging evidence is present.
- Net sale proceeds will be deposited in the Forest & Timber Management fund for financial support of future county park and forest operations.

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

- Age class of the trees in this sale are between 50-80 years or double the age typically cut by corporate timber owners.
- Neighboring property owners are BLM, OR Dept. of Forestry and Weyerhaeuser.
- Stream buffers are twice those required by OR Forest Practices Act.
- No aerial spraying will be done at this site.
- Due to the age of these trees the growth rate is slowing down.
- Logger is not yet selected but will be required to pile slash on root-rot trees to help eliminate this spore-fungus in the unit.
- The stand is starting to deteriorate.
- About 400 trees/acre will be harvested.

Citizen input was heard at this time. Items noted are as follows but are not represented to be all inclusive:

- Is there a plan for carbon off-sets in this harvest plan?
Staff response: This specific plan does not take carbon into account. The Forest Advisory Board is moving forward with a consultant to look at a carbon sequestration program for county owned forest lands. In prior years the county forest program looked at FSC certification but to do it required a harvest reduction of 1/3, which had huge impacts to revenue generation to operate county parks, and the data did not clearly support moving in that direction would be best for either program.
- The county should look at a climate smart prescription for harvest/no harvest.
Staff response: this is an issue that should be brought to the Forest Advisory Board as it relates to forestry management policy.
- Clear-cutting increases fire danger.
TSAC response: data and years of experience in the field indicate otherwise.
- Douglas-fir in the Willamette Valley is no longer thriving and the county should plant other species.
Staff/TSAC response: planting back the native species is what is suitable for the site and data indicating Douglas-fir isn't viable is speculative at this time. Additionally if there was ever a fire in this unit, Douglas-fir has a good survival rate and would likely regenerate first.

Commissioner Humberston noted there are 63million acres in Clackamas County, 30million of those are privately owned, and only 18% are in government control. Clackamas County has just over 3,000 acres we actively manage sustainably and need to do so in perpetuity. The county revenue streams only go so far with the highest priorities being law enforcement and social programs. Having the Forest & Timber Management program sustainably operating this program, exceeding OR Forest Practices Act rules, and generating revenue to pay for its operations and contributing to funding County Parks' operations is critical. Having well maintained, safe parks continues to be a high priority of the citizens of the county and this funding is critical to keeping our parks open.

After discussion concluded Chair Keller called for a vote. Members in favor were Chair Keller, Dan Green, Sally Rask, and Bill Avison. Member Louise Lopes voted against the sale noting the Douglas-fir and grand-fir on her own property in Molalla area died and she believes this species is not sustainable for replanting.

Chair Keller will draft a letter on behalf of the Timber Sale Advisory Committee in support of the sale, and noting the vote. The letter will be submitted to Rick Gruen and Andrew Dobmeier to forward to the Board of County Commissioners.

Good of the Order

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm

TIMBER HARVEST PLAN
Family Camp Timber Sale

October 9, 2019



Andrew Dobmeier
Clackamas County Forester
FOREST PROGRAM
(503) 742-4425

SITE EVALUATION

Family Camp - 2019 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 Family Camp - 2019 Timber Sale is located in Section 18, T. 7 S., R. 3 E. WM about 16 miles by road south of Molalla. The sale will harvest approximately 1,615 thousand board feet (MBF) of timber (1,518 MBF Douglas-fir, 209 MBF hemlock and 39 MBF of red alder). The harvest will cover approximately 50 acres of the 160 acre property using standard ground-based logging systems. The harvested area will be replanted with Douglas-fir and western red cedar. Western hemlock and red alder is expected to seed in naturally. All portions of the area will be loader-piled and the piles may be burned the following fall.

Net sale proceeds will be deposited in the Forest & Timber Management Fund for future county park and forest operations.

INTRODUCTION

The following section of the report describes the resources present in this area, the expected impacts, and mitigation measures to be taken during harvest operations.

SETTING

The 50-acre Family Camp harvest area is Douglas-fir forest type. The entire area is forested with Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and a little bit of red alder. This property is basically ranging in age from 55 to 80 years. Elevations range from 2,130 to 2,400 feet. S. Family Camp county road runs along the western edge of the unit and S. Gauley Creek road runs on the eastern edge of the unit. The road can be resurfaced with rock from Avison Rock South of Molalla. Family Camp road follows an old railroad grade and there is on big through cut that has trees reaching over the road. The rest of the cuts and fill slopes along the roads are well vegetated and stable. There is a small no named non fish creek that is in the northwest part of the unit. No wetlands were found on the site.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The Family Camp harvest area faces east with some mild to moderate slopes ranging up to 45% interspersed with flat benches. The soils in the tract are well drained and well suited for tree planting and growing. They include gravelly loams of the Wilhoit-Zygore Complex. On the flatter benches, soil depths are as much as 4 feet deep.

VEGETATION

Vine maple, Oregon Hazelnut and Salmonberry are the primary understory of vegetation. In the areas of denser ground cover, huckleberry, Oregon grape and sword fern dominate, with occasional clumps of vine maple present.

ANIMALS AND FISH

Deer and elk forage on the shrubs and grass found in the open areas around the Harvest unit. Other wildlife present include black bear, mountain lion, bob cat and all the smaller mammals and birds typical of the upland forest types of the Pacific Northwest. The forest contains no suitable spotted owl nesting habitat and no owl presence has been detected.

The no name creek on the edge of the unit has been surveyed by the Oregon Department of Forestry Fish Biologist. There are no fish presence anywhere in the sale area.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The area was surveyed by County employees and was found to have a low probability of having significant sites of cultural activity. Some old logging evidence is still visible as stumps and skid trails.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Logs will be yarded to the existing road or to short spurs that will need to be built by the logger. Gravel and drainage have been added to the existing road to facilitate the log haul. The road will be continuously maintained during log hauling operations. A use agreement is in place with the Oregon department of Forestry and Weyerhaeuser Timberlands. Old skid trails will be used again as appropriate.

HARVEST PRESCRIPTION

This sale will harvest about 1,615 thousand board feet from approximately 50 acres. The majority of the harvest unit is denser areas of Douglas-fir with scattered hardwoods and western hemlock. Harvested areas will be planted with Douglas-fir and western red cedar following the harvest. Western hemlock is expected to seed in naturally from the adjacent standing trees around the unit.

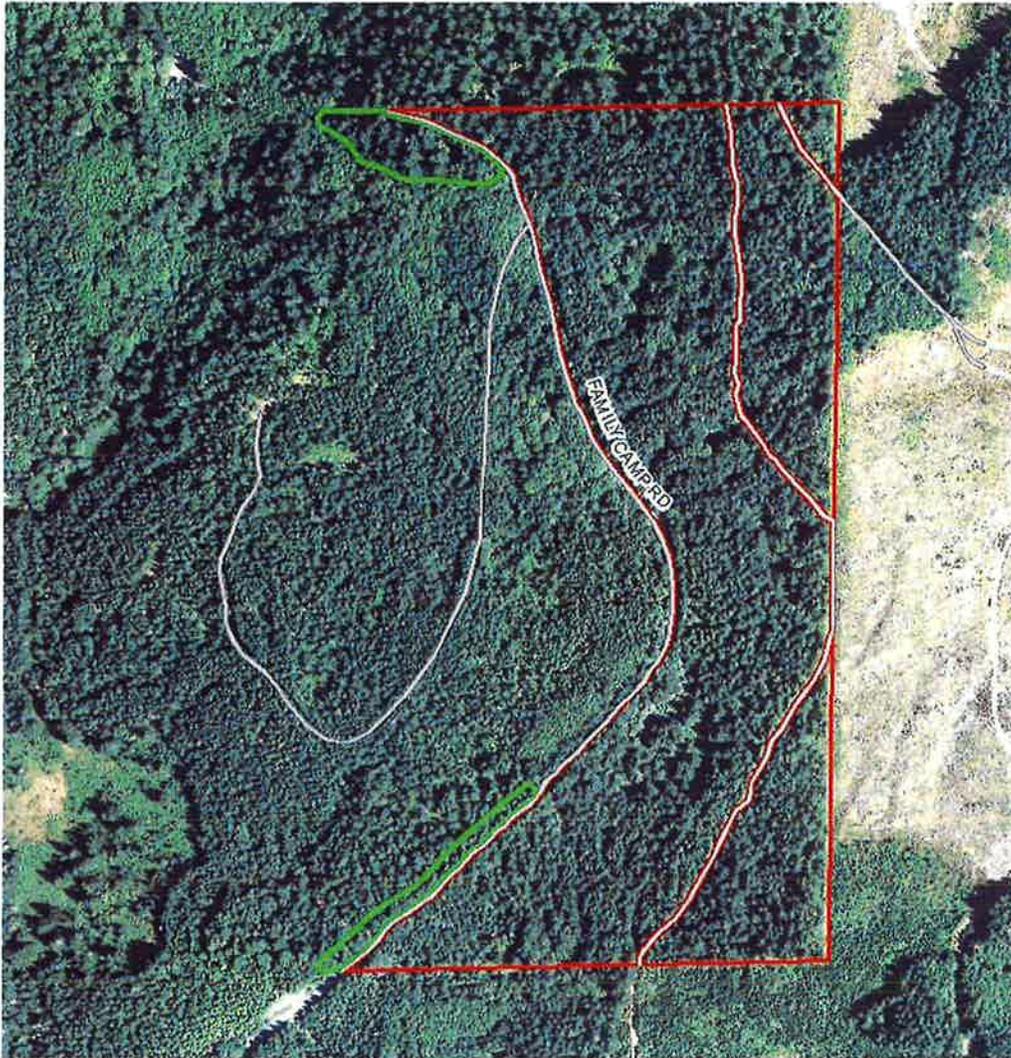
- Clackamas County's Forest & Timber Management Program meets and often times exceeds all Oregon Forest Practice Act rules
- Authorization Notice from Oregon Department of Forestry will be obtained
- Approved shovel logging methods are to be used
- Estimated 6-12 loads of logs average per day depending on the operator
- 20' buffer has been established along the no name creek west of the NW corner
- Harvest is estimated to begin in late January 2020 and end by June 30th
- Slash created by the timber sale will be piled after the unit is complete and burned in the fall of 2020
- Planting will be in the winter of 2021

RECREATION POTENTIAL AND VIEWSHED

The area is open to hiking, mushrooming, berry picking, picnicking, horseback riding and most other types of day-use recreation. Overnight use is not allowed. Off-road vehicle use and target shooting are not allowed. All gravel and dirt roads are off-limits for unauthorized vehicles but open for pedestrian, equestrian and mountain bike use. With the exception of the County road, public use will not be allowed in the area during active harvest operations.

PUBLIC INVOLVMENT

A public meeting and tour are planned on November 7th and 9th respectively.



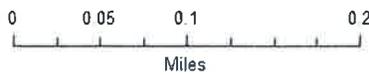
FAMILY CAMP TIMBER SALE

-  CUT TREE MARK
-  UNIT BOUNDARY
-  ROAD

TOTAL ACRES = 50
 CUT TREE MARK ACRES = 2.7



1 inch = 389 feet



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Forest Planning: Clackamas County Forestry, 2019
 Map prepared by: Samantha Wolf, Clackamas County Forestry, November 5, 2019
 Data Source: Clackamas County GIS (2016-2019); Clackamas County Forestry (2019)
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