

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Study Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: January 28, 2014 **Approx. Start Time:** ^{10:00}~~9:00~~ a.m. **Approx. Length:** 30 minutes

Presentation Title: Cedar Ridge Timber Sale Update and Contract Approval

Department: BCS/County Parks & Forest

Presenters: Rick Gruen, Parks & Forest Manager; Dan Green, County Forester; Gary Barth, BCS Director

Other Invitees: Laura Zentner, BCS Deputy Director; Molly McKnight, Forest Staff

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Approval of the Cedar Ridge timber sale contract from Sanders Forests Products, d/b/a RSG Forest Products, located in Molalla, Oregon.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BCS, through its County Parks & Forest division, owns and manages approximately 3000 acres of timberland. These income generating assets provide 25 to 35% of the operating revenue for County Parks. Net timber revenue is placed in the County Parks & Forest Trust Fund and then transferred to County Parks to partially fund the Parks operating budget. As a hedge against fluctuating timber prices or other economic downturns, it has been the longstanding objective of Parks & Forest to maintain the equivalent of two years of net timber revenue in reserve.

In July, 2013, the Board of County Commissioners approved County Parks & Forest's five year forest management strategy for FY2013-14 through FY 2017/18. This strategy included prepping the Cedar Ridge unit as the next up timber sale scheduled in the spring of 2014 and beginning planning for a proposed Boulder Creek timber sale in FY2014/15.

The Cedar Ridge timber sale, located in the Brightwood area, is a 50 acre unit with an estimated harvest volume of 1.3 million board feet. The harvest plan would also retain 10% of the mature conifers and most of the hardwoods. Consistent with the timber sale process and Forest Management Plan, the public was engaged about the proposed Cedar Ridge Timber Sale before going out to bid. The County Forester held 5 public meetings with interested community members, including 2 site tours that included the adjoining property owners. The goal of these meetings were to identify and address any public/community concerns regarding the proposed sale and make revisions to the harvest plan to remedy those concerns where actionable. As a result, the harvest plan was revised to include:

- wider hillside vegetative buffer to protect soil loss/erosion on steeper slope
- establish "good neighbor" tree/view shed buffers with adjoining property owners
- maintain adequate conservation buffers surrounding a seasonal pond
- post logging road obliteration and replanting
- curtail logging operations after 1pm
- no impact to a nearby community water system

On November 12, the County Forester presented the revised Cedar Ridge Timber Sale and Harvest Plan to the Timber Sale Advisory Committee (TSAC). TSAC considered the updated timber sale prescription and concerns expressed during the public engagement process as part of the discussion and Q&A. Four citizens were in attendance including a person who was

identified as the chief petitioner of a local Brightwood area petition requesting that the County not clear cut Cedar Ridge. It should be noted that the relatively small number of people expressing concerns to the County Forester or TSAC have generally concluded that County Forestry Staff have made professional and thoughtful considerations to improving the harvest plan and were accepting of the plan once Forestry Staff had a chance to discuss options with them.

After discussion, TSAC recommended approval of the Cedar Ridge Timber Sale and would forward the recommendation to the BCC. The County Forester and Parks & Forest Manager met with County Counsel to prepare a timber sale contract and work with Purchasing to prepare and release an Invitation to Bid. Five bids were received by Purchasing on January 7 with RSG Forest Products in Molalla submitting the high bid.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

The RSG Forest Products contract is anticipated to generate approximately \$640,000 in revenue to County Parks & Forest. The bid price reflects a bid of \$627.67 per thousand board feet for Douglas fir and \$476.42 per thousand board feet for Hemlock. This anticipated revenue was identified in the current FY2013/14 Parks & Forest budget to support County Parks operations and maintenance requirements.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

The Cedar Ridge timber sale was planned and executed consistent with the County Forest Management Plan and will meet or exceed Oregon Forest Practices rules. The Cedar Ridge 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:

- **July 16, 2013:** Presentation of the 2013-18 Five Year Harvest Strategy to the BCC with Cedar Ridge identified as the next up timber sale planned sale for FY2013/14. Action approved.
- **August 26, 2013:** Public meeting was held at The Resort at the Mountain. This meeting was advertised in both the Hoodland and the Sandy papers and via email by Public Affairs. Commissioner Bernard attended.
- **September 12, 2013:** Presentation to the Hoodland CPO meeting on September 12.
- **October 12, 2013:** A public tour was held on site at the Cedar Ridge timber sale area. This meeting was announced in the Sandy and Hoodland newspapers as well as at earlier public meetings. There were about a dozen attendees.
- **October 21, 2013:** Site meeting with local community members and neighbors.
- **November 12, 2013:** Meeting of the Timber Sale Advisory Committee was held to discuss and review the Cedar Ridge Timber Sale and Harvest Plan. There were four members of the public in attendance. The TSAC subsequently accepted the Timber Sale and Harvest Plan as being thoughtful to the identified concerns at prior public meetings and approved County Parks & Forest to move forward with preparing an Invitation to Bid.
- **January 7, 2014:** Five bids were received with RSG Forest Products being the high bidder.

OPTIONS:

1. Accept the contract from Sanders Forest Products, d/b/a RSG Forest Products, as submitted.
2. Reopen the bid process.

3. Direct Forest staff to not sell the Cedar Ridge Timber Sale. This option would have a significant negative impact on the Parks and Forest budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

BCS Staff, along with the County Forest and Parks Advisory Boards and Timber Sale Advisory Committee, recommend Option 1 to accept the contract from RSG Forest Products for the Cedar Ridge timber sale. This strategy will meet County Parks objectives: 1) Predictable and certain revenue streams to support forest and park operations, 2) Continue to rebuild and maintain the County Parks & Forest Trust Fund reserve to \$900,000 or the equivalent of two years of net timber harvest proceeds, 3) Provide a consistent and reliable source of domestic logs for local mills, and 4) Maintain the balance in forest age class inventory.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Timber sale site map
- Cedar Ridge Timber Sale and Harvest Plan – Revised Nov.12, 2013
- Recommendation from Timber Sale Advisory Committee
- Misc. correspondence

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval 

Department Director/Head Approval 

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact: Rick Gruen @ 503-742-4345

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% to overall County Parks revenue and is critical for meeting annual operation and maintenance requirements.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS:

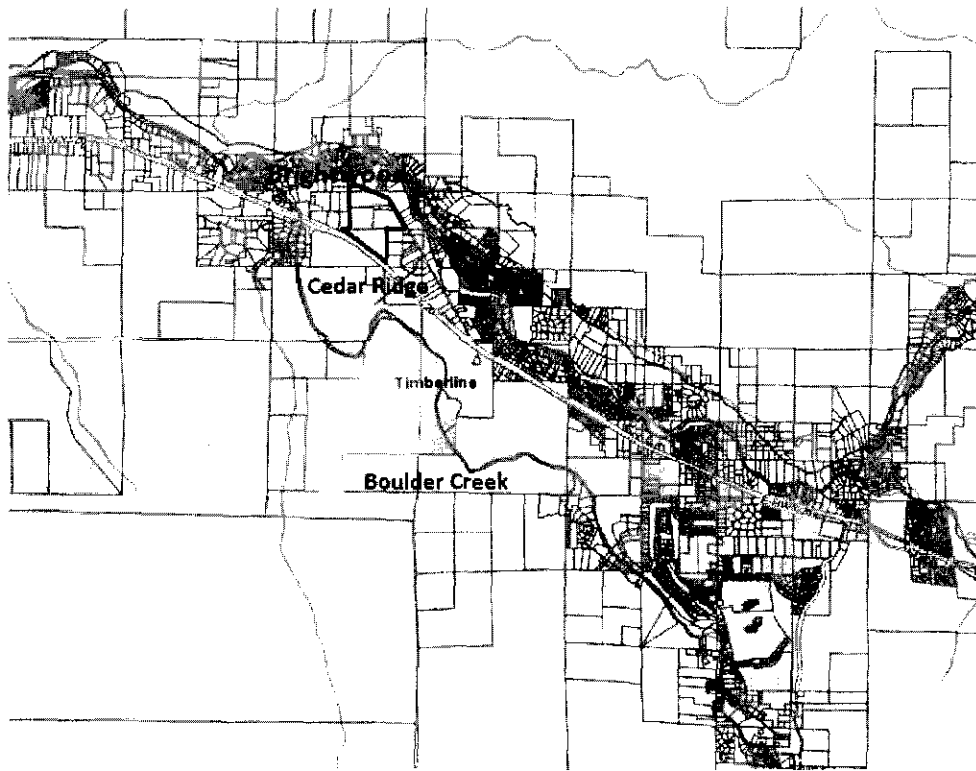
County Parks & Forest receives only about 8% of its budget from general funds. To be successful, County Parks & Forest requires predictable and consistent revenue stream from the combination of asset generating income: timber sales, golf course revenue, Marina lease income and Park fees (direct and state RV fees). Acceptance of the RSG Timber Sale Contract to harvest the Cedar Ridge is consistent with the Forest Management Plan objectives.

COSTS & BENEFITS:

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

N/A

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



TIMBER HARVEST PLAN
CEDAR RIDGE TIMBER SALE

As of November 12, 2013



Dan Green
County Forester
FOREST PROGRAM
(503) 742-4425

SITE EVALUATION

Cedar Ridge Timber Sale

LOCATION AND SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Cedar Ridge Timber Sale is located in Sections 24 and 25, T. 2 S., R. 6 E. WM along Brightwood Loop Road. The sale will harvest approximately 1,125 thousand board feet (MBF) of timber (700 MBF Douglas-fir, 400 MBF hemlock, and 25 MBF cedar) worth between \$465,000 and \$600,000 at today's prices. The harvest will cover approximately 50 acres of the 75 acre property using ground-based logging systems. The harvested area will be planted with Douglas-fir and western red cedar. Western hemlock is expected to seed in naturally. Portions of the area with heavier slash loads will be loader-piled and may be burned, if smoke management concerns can be overcome. Areas with lighter slash will be left un-piled and unburned. Revenue from this sale will be deposited in the County Parks trust fund.

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 logging early in the 1930s and later. The common hardwoods in the area are big leaf maple with much smaller amounts of red alder and cottonwood. There is a 20-acre stand of nearly pure alder in the south of the property. There are no well-defined stream courses on the property although there is a 3/4-acre pond and some gentle swales. The pond is stagnant for much of the year and is a dry brush field by late summer.

Highway 26 forms the south boundary to the property. Brightwood Loop Road forms the north boundary. On the west and east sides the neighboring properties are residential or small forested lots. Most of the residential lots have been partially cleared. Brightwood Tavern and Brightwood Store are 500 feet west of the northwest corner of the property.

GEOLOGY & SOILS

The soils in the area are well-developed and highly productive for timber growth. (Bull Run Silt Loam and Bull Run Variant Silt Loam) Soils are deep and well drained except where the land form is concave. Those areas tend to be poorly drained.

VEGETATION

The vegetation is the common mix of forest vegetation that would be expected. The dominant evergreen trees are Douglas-fir and hemlock. The dominant hardwood is big leaf maple, except for the southerly 20 acres where there is an alder stand.

The timber stands are somewhat distinct from each other but not perfectly so. The alder stand is a nearly pure stand distinctly different from the rest of the property. The Douglas-fir/hemlock stand is clumpy and is mixed with the maple stand in places. There are scattered Douglas-fir and hemlock in the maple stands and there are scattered maple in the Douglas-fir stand. Some maple and alder will be removed during the logging of the conifer trees but only on an incidental basis. There are half a dozen cottonwood trees on our west boundary that will be removed at the request of the neighboring home owner.

ANIMALS & FISH

Animals are probably somewhat less common here than on the larger forest tracts south of Hwy 26. But all common forest animals would be expected to be on the property occasionally. The ¼ acre pond supports a number of amphibians, especially during the spring when eggs are laid there. It dries up completely in the summer.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The property is bordered on the south by Highway 26 but there is not access from there. Brightwood Loop Road serves as the north boundary. There is an access point near the about mid-way along the north border of the property that is big enough for two or three cars to enter and park. That entry does not have the sight distance necessary for log truck traffic. Instead a new entry will be built further to the east and a gravel road constructed to access the logging area.

FIRE & FUELS

Where only occasional trees are marked for removal the slash and brush will not be piled. In areas with more trees marked for removal, slash and brush will be piled. It is uncertain if we will be able to burn the piles since smoke could be an issue with neighbors so close.

An 8-foot-wide fire trail will be constructed along the western border of the sale. This will offer protection in that direction if a fire were to burn through the County property. To the north, south and east, there are roads to serve that purpose.

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 no stream channels within the property and no evidence of flooding. There is a small pond (3/4 acre) that is stagnant for much of the year and goes dry in late summer. About 50 trees will be left around the pond as a partial buffer. There is a gentle swale to the west that may drain water from the pond but there are also hand-dug, relatively minor ditches of unknown origin. Due to the flat terrain and the logging systems required, there should not be any water quality impact from this sale.

RECREATION & PUBLIC USE

From all visual evidence recreational use of Cedar Ridge has been limited. Neighbors indicate a larger level of use for hiking and also for illicit parties and for 4-wheeling.

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. Firewood cutting will not be allowed. 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 firewood permits are not planned due to the costs and problems involved with administering them.

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

CULTURAL RESOURCES

No cultural resources are known to exist so no adverse affect is anticipated.

VISUAL CONCERNS

This harvest will not be very visible. There is a cut-bank which is 20 or more feet tall at the western end of the property along Brightwood Loop road. The bank will screen the harvest area. As you go to the east the bank gets shorter until about 900 feet from the east end the bank disappears altogether. From that point to the eastern end of the property along Brightwood Loop, there is a stand of big maple with only scattered conifer. The maple stand will act as a very effective scenic buffer. Some conifer will be left in the maple stand. It will be possible to see that logging has occurred behind the buffer but it will be well screened.

There are three residences that are adjacent to the harvest area. Each of those home owners will be given the opportunity to work with us to buffer the area next to their home, if that is what they desire. Two of the owners have been contacted at this point and each would prefer that we leave some conifer along the boundary. The third residence is owned by the federal government and appears to be empty. A potential buyer for that residence has expressed an interest in a buffer being left there. It is unclear how that will work out. A fourth residence abuts the maple stand at the east end of Brightwood Loop. Since those trees will not be cut no additional buffer will be needed for that residence.

The harvest is not expected to be visible from Highway 26, any other road or any other developed area not discussed above.

NOISE, DUST AND MUD CONCERNS

This is not a quiet, pristine area. It is sandwiched between a major federal highway and a neighborhood through fare with frequent heavy truck traffic. The four immediate neighbors are at most 500 feet from one of these roads.

None-the-less, we are concerned about the extra noise our logging will inevitably cause. Log trucks will be required to drive at moderate speeds and to not use jake brakes. It will not be possible to log without disturbing the neighbors but we will work with the logger and the neighbors to do the best we can do.

Mud and dust are opposite problems. Drifting dust is more intrusive and bothersome to neighbors. Mud is more unsightly. Both problems are temporary. It is possible to log this site with low ground pressure shovels during the wet season. If the purchaser can produce a logging plan that protects the soil and the water, we would consider allowing wet weather operation. If not, logging would occur in the dry period. At that time we would need to develop a plan to minimize dust blowing on to neighbors' properties.

Mud will be kept off of Brightwood Loop by rocking the main sale roads for at least 300 feet in from the County road. Our Brightwood pit is less than 2 miles away.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The dominant conifer trees and maple are about 80 years old. Fifty-five years is the recommended rotation age in the County Forest Management Plan (revised 2008).

The conifer timber to be removed is marked with blue paint. The conifer timber to be retained is marked with orange paint. About 10% of the conifer timber will be retained. More will be retained around the pond and where buffers are left along the road or by neighbors' houses. Normally maple and other hardwood trees will not be marked for cutting. Some will doubtless be taken in the course of the logging but this removal will be minimal. Half a dozen cottonwood trees will be cut on our west border at the request of the neighboring homeowner.

Logging will be done with "shovels", track-mounted, excavator machines modified for logging. These machines allow logging at all times of the year with little compaction.

Loggers will be required to prepare a noise management plan for minimizing the noise before 7 AM. Trucks will be required to use normal brakes, not jake brakes, in the neighborhood. Logging activities will likely take about three weeks. Heavy rock truck traffic on Brightwood Loop is already common and little effort seems to be made to minimize that noise. We will expect our truckers to be quieter.

Logging will be monitored on a frequent, almost daily, basis while logging is going on. Meetings will be held on site with the loggers before logging begins in order to make sure all the people involved understand what must be done.

PLANNED REFORESTATION ACTIVITIES

Reforestation will be done by planting the areas harvested using Douglas-fir and western red cedar. Natural seeding of hemlock and hardwood species is expected and will be welcomed. Areas of maple forest that are not harvested will be lightly under-planted with cedar at about 50 trees per acre. Brush and slash in the conifer harvest areas will be piled but may not be burned. Where harvesting creates an opening, planting will occur as soon after harvest as possible to reduce the need for control of competing vegetation. Douglas-fir and cedar will be planted at a total rate of 400 trees per acre.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

On August 26, 2013 a public meeting was held to talk about the Cedar Ridge sale proposal and the sale proposals 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 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 Hoodland 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 property with very little comment on the Cedar Ridge sale.

On Saturday, October 12, 2013, a public tour was held. The meeting was announced via the CPO and advertisements in the Sandy Post and the Mountain Times.

The tour was attended by about a dozen people. The County plans were presented and an active discussion ensued. Three of the folks were generally against cutting the trees. We discussed their philosophies but pointed out that the County Commissioners had set aside some acres for preservation and others for production of timber income on a 55 year cycle. So it was not within the scope of this tour to change that direction. We were looking for ideas on how to do the job in a better or less intrusive way.

Ideas that surfaced included a request to rip and plant the dirt roads when we are done and to thoroughly close the entry points so that off-road vehicles are excluded. Also, we were asked not to burn slash without meeting with immediate neighbors to balance their legitimate concern about smoke with the concern about fire hazards. One person is trying to buy an adjacent residence and wanted to have a buffer left next to that house. We agreed to leave 5 big trees close to her fence plus all the hardwoods and small conifer. The issue of cutting trees so close to the cut bank on Brightwood Loop road was raised. We agreed to move the cutting line back 5 to 10 feet in order to protect the trees on the edge of the cut-bank.

On October 21 Dan Green met with several Brightwood neighbors. Brigitte Romeo lives north of the proposed sale and north of Brightwood Loop Road. She contacted us expressing concerns about the affect the harvesting might have on her and her neighbors' flooding and drinking water issues. She offered to get some neighbors together for a discussion and tour of the sale area on October 21. About 8 neighbors were present. We talked about how harvesting can affect water movement and what efforts we would take to minimize any changes in water pathways.

The operator of the community well was there and he is not at all concerned about what we are doing. He says it will not affect his well at all.

The surface water flow from our unit into the neighborhood is likely to be unchanged. We are removing a very small part of that drainage area and there are many other influences that determine how much water drains through the neighborhood. It felt as if 75% of the neighbors were comfortable with what we are doing after the tour and the rest were not supportive but not adamantly opposed.

The neighbors expressed concerns about the trees on the upper edge of the cut-bank above the road. I told them we were going to buffer that edge with a 5 to 10 foot wide buffer (yet to be painted). This is the same concern expressed on October 12th.

The neighbors were at the same time unsure if they would like to have more trees cut along the road to help safeguard the powerlines. I indicated that if the neighborhood could come up with a somewhat unified request about those trees, we would be happy to go along, either in this sale or afterwards. In years past we had cut trees along the road when the neighborhood had requested it. But the lines are on the north side of the road close to all of the neighbors' trees and, if those trees are not cut, it makes little sense to cut ours.

Bridgette Romeo pointed out to me that there is a petition against our harvest in the Brightwood Tavern with 100 signatures. By separate communication, Steve Wilent pointed out that there was a similar petition outside the library. The petition does not ask for changes or improvements to the sales so it is hard to know how to respond. It is unclear when or to whom the petitions will be presented.

A Timber Sale Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for November 12 at 6 PM. That meeting will be at the County's DSB Building, 150 Beavercreek Road, Oregon City. The target date for sending the sale out to bid is mid-November but that date may be impacted by any number of items that could delay

the sale. The sale would be sold in mid-December or later and would be completed by November 1, 2014.

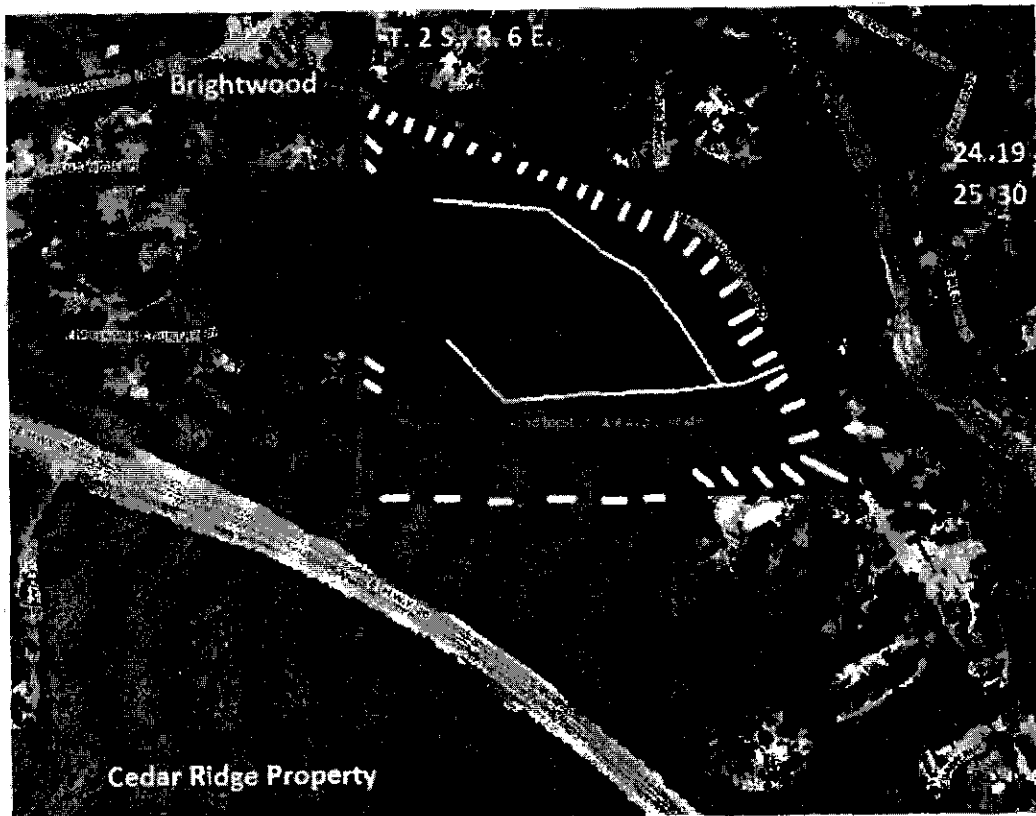
No written comments have been submitted to the County Forest Program. There have been a handful of telephone calls, most of which are included in the discussion above. No phone calls asked for particular items that are not discussed above.

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

Cedar Ridge Timber Sale ... Project #01-14
Clackamas County Forest Program
Section 24 and 25, T. 2 S., R. 6 E. WM



Scale: 1 inch equals 750 feet



3554 SE Wake Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222
503-515-3851

November 22, 2013

John Ludlow
Chair
Board of County Commissioners
2051 Kaen Road
Oregon City, OR 97045

Dear John,

On November 12, 2013, the Clackamas County Timber Sale Advisory Committee met to consider the "Cedar Ridge" Timber Sale. In attendance from the County were Natural Resources Coordinator Dan Green, Manager of County Parks and Forest Rick Gruen, and various County Staff members. In attendance from the Timber Sale Advisory Committee were Steve Wilent, Sally Rask, and myself. Also present was Lenny Kirschner from the Hoodland CPO, and three citizens from the Brightwood community. Dan presented his plan to harvest the sale, which covers approximately 50-acres. I have visited the sale, as have various members of the Advisory Committee.

The three Brightwood citizens in attendance had various concerns, including the contention that their part of the County receives no benefit from the County timber revenue that goes into the County Parks trust fund. This is not true. Barlow Trail Park is among the more than 500-acres of County land in their community that – through designation, land sales, or land exchanges – will have no future timber harvest, and is available for recreational use. Ann Gilbert submitted a petition that opposes the sale, which is enclosed. Please note that the petition describes the sale as a "clear-cut over 75 acres". This is not accurate. The sale covers 50-acres, and the 25-acres along Highway 26 will be left untouched. They had no questions or concerns concerning technical issues of the actual timber sale design.

The charge to the Timber Sale Advisory Committee is to review the County's plans for harvests to ensure they are well founded, and to listen to any public input that may raise technical issues not adequately covered in the plan. After a thorough review of the Timber Harvest Plan, the Committee concluded that there is an excellent plan for the harvest of this sale. Dan has done an excellent job designing this sale in the context of its close proximity to the Brightwood Community. There are designated buffers around homes adjacent to the sale, around wet areas, and along the main road. The amount of leave trees within the harvest unit far exceeds the Oregon Forest Practice Rules and is a more conservative approach than seen on industry timberland. There was a motion to approve both sales. All Committee members were in favor of the "Cedar Ridge" Timber Sale.

Please let me know if you or the other Commissioners have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,



Brent Keller
Forester
Chair – Clackamas County Timber Sale Advisory Committee

Gruen, Rick

From: Gruen, Rick
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 9:26 AM
To: Barth, Gary
Cc: Zentner, Laura; Butman, Laurel; Krupp, Don; VanDuzer, Chris; Green, Dan
Subject: Cedar Ridge Timber Sale Status - Briefing No. 2

Gary,

I wanted to provide you with a status update on the Cedar Ridge Timber Sale. You may recall from my last briefing on October 22 we were making satisfactory progress in addressing public concerns at our community meetings leading up to our November 12 presentation to the Timber Sale Advisory Committee (TSAC). In that briefing we also made you aware of a petition being circulated in the community at a number of bars, library and store calling for the county not to harvest (clear cut) Cedar Ridge.

The November 12 TSAC meeting was attended by four of our five TSAC board members and several citizens from the Brightwood/Hoodland community including George Wilson, Chair of the Villages at Mt. Hood and a person we believe was the Chief Petitioner of the above referenced petition. Our Forest Staff provided TSAC with an overview of the revised Cedar Ridge Harvest Plan and responded to their technical questions as well as questions related to the sale process. TSAC also fielded questions from the public members. As in our prior meetings with community members, the citizens present for the TSAC meeting while not necessarily supportive of the sale, were accepting that our timber sale was responsibly planned and thoughtful of the adjoining landowners. They seemed to understand why we harvesting though again would have preferred us to seek other options to generate revenue. TSAC approved the Cedar Ridge Timber Sale 4-0. The TSAC Chair's written recommendation to proceed will be forthcoming. TSAC also accepted the petition from the Chief Petition and will attach it with the recommendation. It is important to understand the factual inaccuracies of the petition which is summarized below:

Petition Statement 1: The sale will clear cut over 75 acres.

Cedar Ridge Actual Plan: The area where harvest activity will occur is only 50 acres, and all of these acres will not be clear cut. Prescription calls for a 90% cut. The other 25 acres includes stands of maple and alder that runs along Hwy. 26 and Brightwood Loop where no harvest activity will take place.

Petition Statement 2: The sale will result in a clear cut extending south towards Hwy. 26.

Cedar Ridge Actual Plan: Again, there are 25 acres of alder and maple stands that encompasses the entire length of the south property boundary along Hwy. 26 as well as to the north along Brightwood Loop. These non-harvested areas will provide view buffers and the harvested area will not be visible from Hwy. 26 and Brightwood Loop. Of the 50 acres where harvest will occur, about 30-35 acres will have openings of varying sizes with 10% of the conifers retained along with most all hardwoods. After harvest these areas will look like a collection of patchy, smaller clear cuts. On the other 15-20 acres, there will be a more selective harvesting intended to remove marked conifers a likely a few hardwoods will be taken in the process.

Petition Statement 3: This forest contains trails and a pond that many of us enjoy.

Cedar Ridge Actual Plan: Some portions of the 15-20 acres where little or no activity will occur include a buffer of trees surrounding the seasonal pond in the middle of the property and the seasonal pond will still exist post-harvest. The public will still be able to hike around on the property after harvest and approximately 15-20 acres of the property will still retain most of the trees that are currently there (in addition to the 25 acres of alder and maples). It was discussed at the TSAC meeting that wildlife and seasonal aquatic species will not be impacted and in fact will likely be enhanced post harvesting including an increase of songbird populations.

Please know that I couldn't be more pleased with our Forestry Staff and TSAC in their professionalism and ability to respond thoughtfully and respectfully to citizen concerns. We have taken every opportunity to listen and incorporate

citizen suggestions into the final harvest plan. Even though there are still members of the community who oppose timber harvests (not just Cedar Ridge), I would recommend we proceed with the Cedar Ridge Timber Sale as approved by the BCC this past spring and by TSAC at their November 12 meeting.

Next steps in the process as prescribed in current Forest Management Plan include the following benchmarks:

- 1. Review draft timber sale contract with County Counsel - November 27**
- 2. Mail out bid packets to perspective loggers, mills, contractors, etc. - November 27**
- 3. Bid opening - Dec. 16; notify successful bidder**
- 4. Receive signed contract from successful bidder along with security deposit/down payment and certificates of insurance - January 15, 2014**
- 5. Prepare Staff Report for recommendation to BCC to accept contract and award - Feb. 20, 2014 Business Meeting.**

Please advise if you think it would be appropriate to schedule time with BCC in Issues or Study Session prior to Feb. 2014 Business Meeting to discuss the timber sale, petition, any letters/emails the Commissioners may have received (i.e. Janine Bertram letter), or other concerns. The Janine Bertram email was forwarded to our attended by BCC Mail. We were not asked to provide comment to the BCC or respond directly to the email. However, we have internally reviewed the email comments and summarized what actions have taken place and the direct benefit back to the community

- Actions taken by the County over recent years has provided more than 500 acres of land being protected and for the Villages community use to enjoy
- Hunchback Exchange: 170 acres was traded and is now USFS Wilderness
- Boulder to Western Rivers-BLM: 245 acres was sold to Western Rivers and is now BLM forest land (likely to remain unmanaged/not-harvested)
- Barlow Trail Park: 105 acres of County-owned forested land is being managed as a park and contributes to the BLM/Sandy Ridge Trail system
- Dorman Center: \$250,000 pledged from County Parks; \$250,000 from Library District to support construction of new Community Center.

We have also met with George Wilson on November 18 to respond to his concerns regarding nearly \$1 million in prior timber sale proceeds not being reinvested in the community. This goes back to 2007 and discussions at a number of Parks Advisory Board meeting. Subsequently this amount was reduced to the \$250,000 and documented in revised CIP budgets in 2008 and 2009. Following our meeting, George seemed satisfied with where we are currently at with Hoodland Womens' Club and the Dorman Center property.

I would be happy to answer any questions or provide you with additional information as needed or requested. I want to make sure we keep the communication line open as we move forward. Thanks for your time and continued support.

Regards,

Rick

Rick Gruen | Manager

Clackamas County | County Parks & Forest; Ag and Forest Economic Development

150 Beaver Creek Road | Oregon City | Oregon | 97045

ph: 503.742.4345 | email: rgruen@clackamas.us

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Next steps in the process as prescribed in current Forest Management Plan include the following benchmarks:

1. Review draft timber sale contract with County Counsel - November 27
2. Mail out bid packets to perspective loggers, mills, contractors, etc. - November 27
3. Bid opening - Dec. 16; notify successful bidder
4. Receive signed contract from successful bidder along with security deposit/down payment and certificates of insurance - January 15, 2014
5. Prepare Staff Report for recommendation to BCC to accept contract and award - Feb. 20, 2014 Business Meeting.

Please advise if you think it would be appropriate to schedule time with BCC in Issues or Study Session prior to Feb. 2014 Business Meeting to discuss the timber sale, petition, any letters/emails the Commissioners may have received (i.e. Janine Bertram letter), or other concerns. The Janine Bertram email was forwarded to our attended by BCC Mail. We were not asked to provide comment to the BCC or respond directly to the email. However, we have internally reviewed the email comments and summarized what actions have taken place and the direct benefit back to the community

- Actions taken by the County over recent years has provided more than 500 acres of land being protected and for the Villages community use to enjoy
- Hunchback Exchange: 170 acres was traded and is now USFS Wilderness
- Boulder to Western Rivers-BLM: 245 acres was sold to Western Rivers and is now BLM forest land (likely to remain unmanaged/not-harvested)
- Barlow Trail Park: 105 acres of County-owned forested land is being managed as a park and contributes to the BLM/Sandy Ridge Trail system
- Dorman Center: \$250,000 pledged from County Parks; \$250,000 from Library District to support construction of new Community Center.

We have also met with George Wilson on November 18 to respond to his concerns regarding nearly \$1 million in prior timber sale proceeds not being reinvested in the community. This goes back to 2007 and discussions at a number of Parks Advisory Board meeting. Subsequently this amount was reduced to the \$250,000 and documented in revised CIP budgets in 2008 and 2009. Following our meeting, George seemed satisfied with where we are currently at with Hoodland Womens' Club and the Dorman Center property.

I would be happy to answer any questions or provide you with additional information as needed or requested. I want to make sure we keep the communication line open as we move forward. Thanks for your time and continued support.

Regards,

Rick

Rick Gruen | Manager

Clackamas County | County Parks & Forest; Ag and Forest Economic Development

150 Beaver Creek Road | Oregon City | Oregon | 97045

ph: 503.742.4345 | email: rgruen@clackamas.us

Gruen, Rick

From: Gruen, Rick
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 9:26 AM
To: Barth, Gary
Cc: Zentner, Laura; Butman, Laurel; Krupp, Don; VanDuzer, Chris; Green, Dan
Subject: Cedar Ridge Timber Sale Status - Briefing No. 2

Gary,

I wanted to provide you with a status update on the Cedar Ridge Timber Sale. You may recall from my last briefing on October 22 we were making *satisfactory progress in addressing public concerns* at our community meetings leading up to our November 12 presentation to the Timber Sale Advisory Committee (TSAC). In that briefing we also made you aware of a petition being circulated in the community at a number of bars, library and store calling for the county not to harvest (clear cut) Cedar Ridge.

The November 12 TSAC meeting was attended by four of our five TSAC board members and several citizens from the Brightwood/Hoodland community including George Wilson, Chair of the Villages at Mt. Hood and a person we believe was the Chief Petitioner of the above referenced petition. Our Forest Staff provided TSAC with an overview of the revised Cedar Ridge Harvest Plan and responded to their technical questions as well as questions related to the sale process. TSAC also fielded questions from the public members. As in our prior meetings with community members, the citizens present for the TSAC meeting while not necessarily supportive of the sale, were accepting that our timber sale was responsibly planned and thoughtful of the adjoining landowners. They seemed to understand why we harvesting though again would have preferred us to seek other options to generate revenue. TSAC approved the Cedar Ridge Timber Sale 4-0. The TSAC Chair's written recommendation to proceed will be forthcoming. TSAC also accepted the petition from the Chief Petition and will attach it with the recommendation. It is important to understand the factual inaccuracies of the petition which is summarized below:

Petition Statement 1: The sale will clear cut over 75 acres.

Cedar Ridge Actual Plan: The area where harvest activity will occur is only 50 acres, and all of these acres will not be clear cut. Prescription calls for a 90% cut. The other 25 acres includes stands of maple and alder that runs along Hwy. 26 and Brightwood Loop where no harvest activity will take place.

Petition Statement 2: The sale will result in a clear cut extending south towards Hwy. 26.

Cedar Ridge Actual Plan: Again, there are 25 acres of alder and maple stands that encompasses the entire length of the south property boundary along Hwy. 26 as well as to the north along Brightwood Loop. These non-harvested areas will provide view buffers and the harvested area will not be visible from Hwy. 26 and Brightwood Loop. Of the 50 acres where harvest will occur, about 30-35 acres will have openings of varying sizes with 10% of the conifers retained along with most all hardwoods. After harvest these areas will look like a collection of patchy, smaller clear cuts. On the other 15-20 acres, there will be a more selective harvesting intended to remove marked conifers a likely a few hardwoods will be taken in the process.

Petition Statement 3: This forest contains trails and a pond that many of us enjoy.

Cedar Ridge Actual Plan: Some portions of the 15-20 acres where little or no activity will occur include a buffer of trees surrounding the seasonal pond in the middle of the property and the seasonal pond will still exist post-harvest. The public will still be able to hike around on the property after harvest and approximately 15-20 acres of the property will still retain most of the trees that are currently there (in addition to the 25 acres of alder and maples). It was discussed at the TSAC meeting that wildlife and seasonal aquatic species will not be impacted and in fact will likely be enhanced post harvesting including an increase of songbird populations.

Please know that I couldn't be more pleased with our Forestry Staff and TSAC in their professionalism and ability to respond thoughtfully and respectfully to citizen concerns. We have taken every opportunity to listen and incorporate



Gary Barth
Director

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Development Services Building
150 Beavercreek Road Oregon City, OR 97045

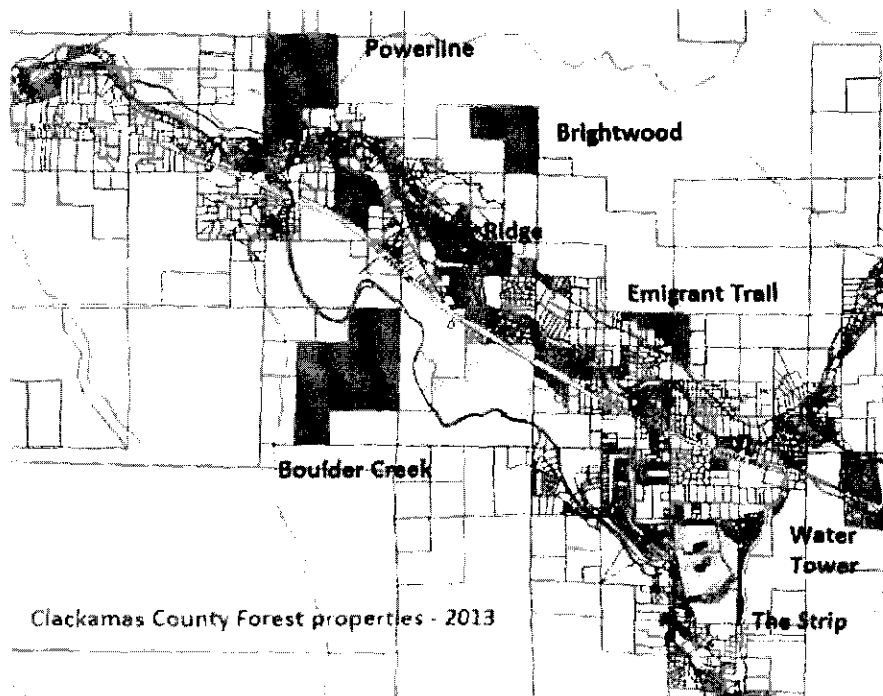
August 26, 2013

To: Public Meeting Participants and Other Interested Parties

Re: Timber Sale Planning for the Hoodland Area - 2013 to 2018

County Parks & Forest Overview

Clackamas County Parks & Forest owns and manages about 4,000 acres of forestland. About 1,000 acres are in County parks, special use areas and scenic or environmental protection areas. The rest are managed to provide revenue to support the County Parks program.



The County Parks and Forest operating budget is just over \$2,000,000 annually. In addition to the timber revenue, the parks are funded through direct park fees, state RV registration funds and net income generated from the County Parks owned golf course and marina. There are 11 developed parks in the County, including the old Dorman Center and Barlow Wayside in the Hoodland area.

Forest Management Plan

A Forest Management Plan, adopted in 2008, guides our forest management and timber harvesting program management. It calls for 1/55th of the forest area to be harvest annually (about 55 acres), averaged over a ten year period. In the last 10 years, that harvest has returned to the County slightly over \$700,000 a year.

In the last year, the County has done an accelerated harvest of 275 acres. These acres came from our Wildcat, Elwood and Dhooghe properties. The revenue from those sales will pay off a bond that was taken out when the County bought the Stone Creek Golf Course and provide a cushion in the Parks and Forest Trust Fund. Paying off that bond early will eliminate a \$400,000 annual debt payment 10 years early, saving \$1,000,000 in interest and freeing up the \$400,000 annually to contribute to Parks and Forest operations.

The accelerated harvest will cause our annual harvest number to decline to about 49 acres per year. In the next three to four years it is anticipated that the harvests will occur on the Cedar Ridge property and the Boulder property, both in the Hoodland area. The last harvest in this area was on Boulder in 2006 (Thinmore – 67 acres) and in 2003 (Boulder -- 25 acres).

Cedar Ridge Timber Sale

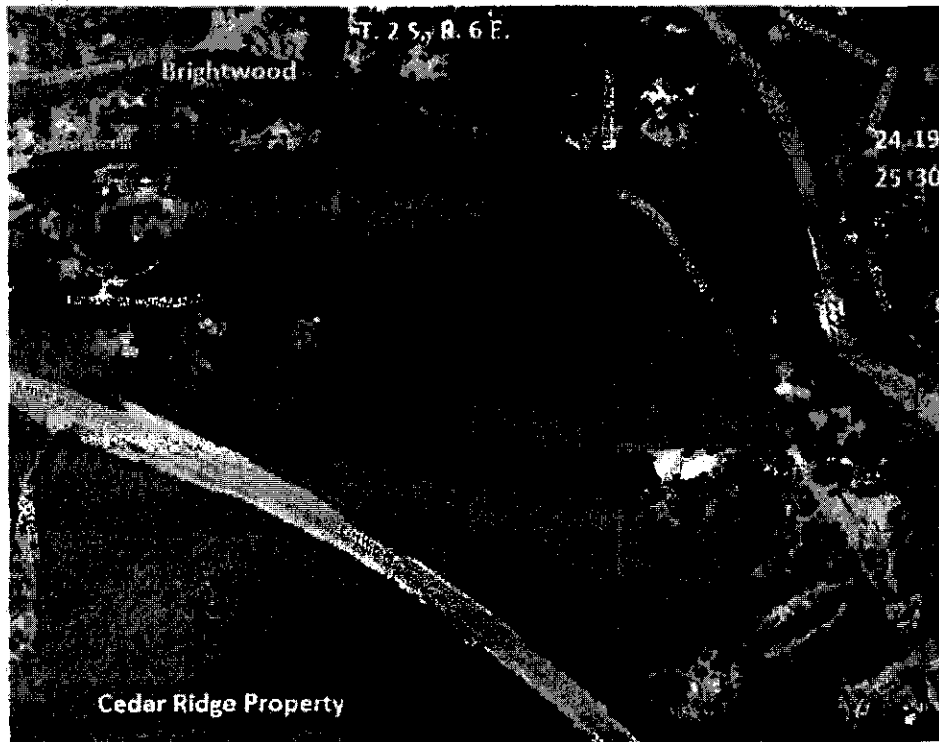
The first sale is anticipated to be on Cedar Ridge, perhaps as early as December, 2013. This property is a tax-foreclosed property in the Brightwood area that is zoned Hoodland Residential. The eventual plan for the property is to sell it to a developer and return it to the tax rolls. County planners suggest that it would likely be developed as a high-density planned community. It is unclear when this might happen. There does not appear to be much interest in such a property on the current real estate market. Whenever the property should be sold, the majority of the trees will likely be cut prior to development.

The idea for harvesting on Cedar Ridge is to harvest 80 to 90% of the conifer (evergreen) trees and leave the hardwood trees. This is similar to what we think a developer would do. Logging would be done in the spring or summer of 2014 using ground-based logging equipment. Access would be developed off of Brightwood Loop. The slash would be piled and, hopefully, burned. The area would be replanted with Douglas-fir and with cedar seedlings in March, 2015 at about 400 trees per acre.

The Cedar Ridge property is about 75 acres, of which about 50 acres are heavily forested with 70-year-old Douglas-fir. There are about 2 million board feet of timber worth about \$1,000,000 at today's prices. The ground is flat. There is a small pond on the property that may be man-made. It does not appear to be part of a natural drainage system. We will leave extra trees around the pond.

Logged areas will be screened from Hwy 26 by a stand of alder that will be left. The logged areas will be partly screened from Brightwood Loop road by the topography next to the western

half of the road. Three neighbors with houses immediately adjacent to the County property will be most affected as will some neighbors across Brightwood Loop at the east end of the County property.



Boulder Timber Sale

The Boulder property is a 340-acre property at the end of Country Club road south of Highway 26. It is a complicated property with areas that are very steep and areas that are moderate. A 245-acre portion of the property was sold to the BLM in 2011. BLM has just recently indicated an interest in buying a 100-acre portion on the east side of the parcel. Such interest is not unusual and often leads nowhere. We have told BLM that we will continue with our sale plans but will entertain their offer if it comes.

There are at least three possible harvest areas on Boulder. One, for now called the Southwest unit, is about 40 acres of 110-year-old timber which we think resulted from the Still Creek fire about 1900. It is very steep and would require either helicopter logging or multispan skyline logging.

A second unit (the South unit) is about 44 acres along the south property boundary. The timber is about 70 years old. The ground is steep but not as difficult to log as the Southwest unit. It will require downhill skyline logging and a temporary stream crossing of an unnamed stream.