

**EASTERN OREGON REGIONAL FOREST  
PRACTICES COMMITTEE  
OPERATOR OF THE YEAR TOUR**

Tour: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023





## FOREST OPERATOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

**PURPOSE:** This directive establishes guidelines for the Forest Practices Forest Operator Recognition Program.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- A. To publicly recognize operators that consistently exceed the Oregon Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice rules.
- B. To improve public understanding of the Forest Practices Act and its accomplishments.

**AUTHORITY:** ORS 527.630 It is the "...policy of the State of Oregon to encourage economically efficient forest practices that assure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species and the maintenance of forestland for such purposes as the leading use on privately owned land, consistent with sound management of soil, air, water, fish and wildlife resources and scenic resources within visually sensitive corridors...."

**SCOPE:** This directive is to be applied statewide.

**STANDARDS:**

- A. Levels of Recognition (or categories).
  - 1. Forest Operator of the Year. The Oregon State Board of Forestry will present three "Forest Practices Forest Operator of the Year" awards to operators selected by each of the three regional Forest Practice committees. Selected operators will be individuals/companies that consistently exceed the Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice rules.
  - 2. Merit Awards. Merit award winners shall be selected from Forest Operator of the Year nominees. Winners must consistently exceed the Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice rules.
  - 3. Letters of Commendation. Districts should give Letters of Commendation to operators that have shown concern for the environment during an operation, regardless of the degree of operation difficulty or past operator performance.



FOREST OPERATOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

**STANDARDS:** (Cont.)

- B. Size of Operation to Recognize. Any size operation may be recognized.
- C. Type of Operation to Recognize. Either companies, contractors or individuals may be recognized. Awards are not limited to harvesting operations. Generally, landowners will not be considered for recognition as operators except in cases where the landowner is conducting the operation.
- D. Nomination Screening Criteria. Only operators who meet the following criteria will be considered for Operator of the Year or merit awards.
  - 1. Consistency of the Operator. The operator can be counted upon to consistently do an outstanding job.  
  
"Consistently" is defined as no violations of the Forest Practices Act within the last two years, and recognition by the Forest Practices forester of "exceeding rules" often. "Exceeds" is defined to mean that the operator prevents resource damage, and results go beyond the rules and the minimum required results.
  - 2. Degree of Difficulty. The operator faced a difficult operation. (For example, most operators could do a good job on flat ground with no running streams involved.)
  - 3. Innovation and Extra Effort. The operator used innovations, extra effort or other creative solutions in conducting operations while protecting or enhancing resources.
  - 4. Results. The operator achieved resource protection results on the ground which exceed the intent of the rules, or otherwise enhanced protected resources as described in Board of Forestry policy.
  - 5. Financial Risk. The operator assumed some financial risk in conducting the operation. (Money, time, or equipment, as opposed to the landowner paying the operator for cost plus profit.)



FOREST OPERATOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

**STANDARDS:** (Cont.)

- E. Weighing Factors. Operators who met all the nomination criteria will be considered for recognized Operator of the Year awards. The operator may have done an excellent job on one operation, but adequate at other times. In such cases, the operator should be considered for a Letter of Commendation or a Merit Award. The operator who consistently does an excellent job of exceeding the Act on several operations (either the same or different types of operations) should be considered for regional Forest Operator of the Year. An operator who does an excellent job on a few operations can still be nominated for regional Forest Operator of the Year, but more weight would go to the operator that does an excellent job on several operations.
- F. Number of Awards.
  - 1. Forest Operator of the Year -- One award each for the Eastern Oregon, Southwest Oregon, and Northwest Oregon Forest Practices Regions.
  - 2. Merit Awards -- No more than one award per district except when the area director believes circumstances warrant otherwise.
  - 3. Letters of Commendation -- No limit.

OPTIONAL RATING FORM  
OPERATOR RECOGNITION  
OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

CRITERIA	POINTS POSSIBLE	SCORE
CONSISTENCY	20	
DIFFICULTY	15	
CONCERN FOR RESOURCE	20	
INNOVATION/EFFORT	15	
RESULTS	30	
TOTAL SCORE		

**STOP #1**

**LEIGH ANN VRADENBURG**

Eastern Oregon Regional Forest Practices Committee

Operator of the Year Tour – October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023



OPTIONAL RATING FORM  
OPERATOR RECOGNITION  
OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

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TOTAL SCORE		





## 2023 Operator Recognition Program – Nomination Form

AWARD CATEGORY: *Operator of the Year / Merit Award*

REGION (NW/SW/East): East

DISTRICT: Klamath-Lake District

NOMINATED BY: Jason Pettigrew

### OPERATOR INFORMATION AND MAILING ADDRESS:

Operator Name: Leigh Ann Vradenburg

Operator Contact Cell Phone No. 575-418-7938

Operator Contact Email: [lvradenburg@klamathpartnership.org](mailto:lvradenburg@klamathpartnership.org)

Nonprofit Contact Name: Bill Lehman, Executive Director of Klamath Watershed Partnership

Address: 205 Riverside Drive, Suite C

Website: [www.klamathpartnership.org](http://www.klamathpartnership.org)

### Operation Information (*Operation as example of work with RFPC tour*)

Activities: Harvest (X) Site Prep (X) Reforestation (X) Stand Management (X)  
Other (X) Post-fire stream restoration, wetland restoration, prescribed fire, outreach to landowners, juniper management, landscape management planning/mapping, FPA stream survey

Date of Operations: 2017 to present.

### NOAP Numbers since 2019:

2019-981-01155	2022-981-03280
2019-981-11483	2022-981-03283
2019-981-10925	2022-981-05778
2019-981-10924	2022-982-09176
2019-981-10922	2022-981-10148
2019-981-08491	2022-982-11494
2019-981-11484	2022-982-11495
2019-981-11585	2022-981-11693
2019-981-12862	2023-981-00232
2020-981-12585	2023-981-12882
2020-981-13042	2023-982-00604
2021-981-03467	2023-982-01289
2021-981-05479	2023-982-01818
2021-981-05481	2023-982-01836
2021-981-06350	2023-982-01843
2021-981-12443	2023-982-01844
2021-981-12444	2023-982-01846
2021-981-12445	2023-982-01847
2021-981-12246	2023-982-01870
2021-981-12447	2023-982-04778
2021-981-12248	2023-982-06329
2021-981-12449	2023-982-06330
2021-981-12451	





**Location of Operations:** All operations occur within the Klamath Watershed with priority work areas in Chiloquin (*Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project*) <https://www.klfhp.org/chiloquin>, Copperfield Draw, Fivemile Creek, Brownsworth Creek, Yaden Creek, Long Creek, *SE Cascades Forest and Fire Project* <https://www.klfhp.org/secffp>, Camp 6, Long Bell, Camp 4, Aspen Lake, Antelope Desert, North Fork Sprague.

Operations include contract services planning and management of reforestation of wildfire burned sites (242 and Bootleg fires), site preparation for reforestation, forest and juniper thinning for forest health and wildfire risk reduction, pile and broadcast burning, outreach workshops, website development & maintenance (<https://www.klfhp.org/>), post-fire large wood placement in streams (Boulder, Dixon, Brownsworth, Leonard, Fivemile), ground-based logging (thinning) on over a dozen private landowners (green tree & post-fire), hand thinning/piling, tree felling contracts, burning (broadcast and pile burning (over 1,000 acres of treated lands), planting (>175,000 seedlings on six landowners in the 242 Fire footprint in 2023 and 450,000+ planned in 2024/2025, beaver dam analogs, wetland restoration projects (Lakeside Farms), post-assisted log structures, biomass removal (Copperfield draw), commercial harvesting (concurrent with some thinning operations), contracted GIS mapping and inventory of private lands (SECFFP, CCFFP), seedling acquisition from several sources (State and private), wildlife and livestock fencing removal/installation, hazard tree removal on over 106 miles of Bootleg roads on GDRCo in 2023, POD development on private lands (*Potential Operational Delineation* boundaries) of roadside clearing, ODF/ODFW Forest Practices Act stream surveys funded through OWEB to update the FPA stream layer (*since 2017* to present), meadow restoration (11 acres of conifer encroachment with more planned), and development of educational outreach pile burning handouts along with workshops.

**What were the protected resources involved and efforts involved:** Protected resources include waterways and wetland areas (working within those with DSL permitting and in-water work period, riparian areas, protected and sensitive species (Bull trout, bald eagle, etc.), smoke sensitive receptor areas all while working in underserved communities in the Klamath Basin. Efforts include compliance of rules and regulations while oftentimes creatively implementing practices that create positive change pathways that are science-based and effective. Meadow restoration of conifer encroached wetlands on industrial timber ground is underway and expanding in scale of the projects to enhance riparian resiliency while promoting species associated with wetlands. Targeting areas in need of restoration work that lie outside the typical FPA operations is a specialty of Leigh Ann's.

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### Criteria of Award Nomination

**Describe Operator's Consistency in performance over the years (use examples):** Leigh Ann Vradenburg has consistently performed each project from planning, permitting, implementation, and post-op completion reporting across all projects with commendations from landowners, partners, and funders since 2016. FPA compliance is timely and thorough as every project requires some level of coordination with State and Federal agencies. Oftentimes DSL, ODF, DEQ, and other permitting or reporting is necessary for project work. The required documentation for each project is done according to required timelines and oftentimes multiple contractors are coordinated to complete projects in a systematic manner. The attention to detail in the paperwork through project implementation in every project Leigh Ann leads far exceeds most comparable projects conducted on private lands in the Klamath Basin: this exemplifies sound forest management from planning through implementation. Further details can be provided for every project listed in this application wherein the outreach, planning, notifications, coordination, implementation, and project follow-up were consistently delivered at the highest levels.





**Describe the Difficulty and complexity of the operation nominated as well as past operations regarding the protection of forest resources:** The complexity of the operations lie in the diverse partnerships or diversity of stakeholders, the variety of practices implemented from waterways to ridgetops, and the start-to-finish planning to implementation. The diversity of projects that Leigh Ann undertakes creates difficulties from website development, public outreach, permitting for instream work, reforestation, post-fire restoration, wetland restoration, to more non-traditional restoration forest operations. Leigh Ann is a one-person project designer, planner, and manager that oversees sometimes complex operations while coordinating the contracting of skilled operators to implement her project designs. Project design must balance landowner input, policies and laws, financial and operational constraints, and meet the intent of forest restoration and improvement.

The primary difficulty that faces Leigh Ann is experienced workforce capacity and she overcomes that by simply working harder and more hours. The complexity of the projects she undertakes is by design to achieve more holistic projects that address multiple resource issues to create efficiencies and provide multiple resource benefits concurrently. Most other resource professionals address one or two issues within their expertise such as thinning, BDA's, or reforestation: Leigh Ann oftentimes takes on all aspects at once to create a better final project through designed efficiencies as the opportunity to work on private lands often only comes once. This diverse set of operations from stream work to upland thinning creates efficiencies, but inherent complexities that she manages expertly.

An example of one of Leigh Ann's projects currently underway in a post-fire, cross-boundary landscape severely impacted by the 2021 Bootleg fire addresses multiple resource issues with a ridgetop-to-ridgetop approach that is complex with multiple administrative and resource challenges. This project seeks to address riparian enhancement with beaver dam analogs (BDA's), post-assisted log structures (PALS), instream large wood placement coordinated with ODFW and Trout Unlimited, fence removal and reconstruction with wildlife favorable fencing, reduction of burnt biomass while retaining a high component of snags and downed wood far exceeding FPA standards, felling of burnt trees that threaten the newly constructed fence lines, reforestation with ponderosa pine and enhancing aspen regeneration, and burning of numerous, large slash piles. This project is being conducted across industrial timberland, private timberland, and the Forest Service for hundreds of acres of treatment next to the Oregon State Parks OC&E trail and Fivemile creek that is redband trout habitat. The project has multiple partners from several landowners (Forest Service, Oregon Parks and Recreation, Green Diamond Resource Company, and non-industrial private landowners) to technical experts with private contractors and Federal agencies.

Leigh Ann continually demonstrates the ability to accomplish tasks in upland restoration and forest stand improvement work that others cannot accomplish at the scale, the timeliness, or the efficiency in the Klamath Basin across all lands (especially as one person). Leigh Ann is the person that landowners are directed to for ridgetop-to-ridgetop forest management, regardless of pre- or post-fire condition in the Klamath Basin by agencies and partners.

**Describe how the operator was Innovative/Extra Efforts (including matching equipment to the job) or used extra effort on this operation and then Past Operations:**

Leigh Ann seeks out quality partners and operators to implement the diverse projects she takes on as she seeks to provide the highest quality in forest projects to her landowners. She draws from a diverse set of contractors and partners from professional foresters, well-drillers, riparian restoration experts, loggers, fence builders, hand crews, timber industry and fire personnel, and GIS specialists. Her skills at project development, design, contracting resources for implementation, and project oversight far exceeds the multi-tasking capacity of most individuals and organizations. Her communications with everyone involved in her projects provides respectful coordination and well-run operations.



Leigh Ann's innovative capacities include in calibrating each project to resource needs with sometimes non-traditional practices while balancing landowner preferences utilizing a diverse portfolio of skilled contractor capacity. Each project is designed around the greatest resource benefit in a cost-effective manner while most often utilizing multiple contractors to implement unique facets of the project. Leigh Ann serves as a general contractor in many cases and fills in the gaps with her hard work in whatever capacity is needed. Leigh Ann has marked hundreds of acres of timber, lays out units on the ground with sound operational judgement, completes field data collection to the GIS mapping, develops and oversees contracts, coordinates project timing/elements, completes required paperwork, and does everything in the project from start to finish. Her knowledge of her projects far exceeds most project managers where she keeps it flowing and she is solely responsible for its successful completion.

**Describe Results in resource protection and forest management benefits:**

Project results not only meet or far exceed the FPA, but they often take natural resources that are in unsatisfactory or degraded conditions and provide management pathways that most-often far exceeds any standard by which the basis of law has in place. The resource enhancement design and implementation most always exceeds the status quo and exemplifies what high standards in forest or waterway management should look like. Calibrated forest, wetland, and stream practices are science based and not driven simply by economics. Project design is focused on ecological benefits while balancing landowner input, economic constraints, and provides the local operator community sustained work to complement their other business activities.

**Describe the Financial Risk assumed by the operator as well as how much influence the landowner had on this operation:**

Leigh Ann works as a Project Manager for a non-profit watershed council wherein her own equipment is used and project funds must be tracked/utilized expertly. Using grant funds or external funding sources is recognizably not a direct risk to Leigh Ann, but the risk to the *Klamath Watershed Partnership* Board and the organization in multimillion dollar projects is easily recognized. Leigh Ann recognizes the risks involved as a small non-profit and works to reduce the risks, be fiscally responsible, and seeks to be efficient in every operation to create the greatest benefit in resource management for each dollar spent. Fiscal responsibility, accurate reporting, and a well-run business is demonstrated in every project she engages in, year after year.

**OTHER INFO that should be known for consideration to help form a solid picture of your nominee:**

Leigh Ann works long days (and often weekends) driven by her diligence and commitment to the landowners, her operators, and the land itself. I cannot think of a more effective person in the Klamath Basin in holistic watershed management from the ridgetop to the waterways that performs such diverse tasks in forest management. I believe that in some years the acres treated by Leigh Ann's efforts alone meet or exceed the acres of some local agencies that possess multiple staff to perform similar functions (piles burned, acres thinned, miles of fence constructed, etc.).

Operating in a post-fire landscape creates more complex and poorly addressed challenges that Leigh Ann has taken on in addition to her previous full workload of green forest, cross-boundary forest management. The outreach to landowners, the data mapping on private lands, development of operational plans, application for project funding, project development with multiple partners, project implementation, and project monitoring, all the while maintaining a website and serving as secretary for the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership, makes her a pillar in the local natural resource professional community.



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**Landowner of Operation listed above:**

I cannot accurately list the number of different landowners that have worked with and benefited from Leigh Ann's efforts from wetlands to uplands with millions of dollars put into our Klamath communities and the lands we share. Her outreach efforts have reached hundreds, if not thousands, of landowners from the KLFHP website contacts to fliers and workshops she has held in Chiloquin and Rocky Point. The list of notifications listed above exemplifies the list of partners, landowners, and contractors working on private lands in Klamath County in definable projects with measurable outcomes.

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**Nominator(s):**

Name: Jason Pettigrew  
Agency/Company: Oregon Department of Forestry  
Title: Stewardship Forester  
Email: Jason.W.Pettigrew@odf.oregon.gov  
Phone No.: 541-891-7866

*Please Attach if Available (for the selected demonstration operation) or other overall information for operators' history and experiences:*

- NOAP
- Written Plan/PFAP
- Location Map
- Operation Map
- Aerial Photo
- Photographs of operation/activities/efforts/etc.
- Letters of Reference/Support
- Any additional documents to support nomination
  - Other landowners
  - Other agencies involved with the nominee on projects
  - Other ODF staff
  - Neighbors/community (i.e. Mayor of city or neighbors next to op that have input, etc.)





Reforestation monitoring 2023



Field work occurs at all times of the year for Leigh Ann.



Measuring soil temperatures for reforestation compliance.



Post-fire fence clearing, fence removal/building next to Fivemile Creek and the OC&E trail. Site prep is underway with a purposeful, high density of large snag and large down wood retention. Reforestation is planned along with slash treatment, BDA's, PALS, and instream work.

Leigh Ann working on the Fivemile project. You will be challenged to find a more effective, hands-on, and knowledgeable Project Manager in cross-boundary, ridgetop-to-ridgetop work in the Klamath Basin.



Bootleg post-fire large wood placement for erosion mitigation and stream enhancement with almost immediate qualitative and quantitative benefits.



Protecting miles of new fenceline investments with tree clearing. Cattle exclusion is for riparian and wildlife benefit benefiting private forestland management.





Large wood placement in several post-Bootleg fire creeks has had tremendous benefits for sediment capture, long-term stream restoration of fish stream attributes (pools, riffles, falls, etc.), and utilizes burnt material almost immediately with strategic placement in critical Bull trout streams. Well over 8 miles have had treatment with demonstrable favorable effects that continue to develop further riparian habitat and a desirable, more complex stream structure.



An August 2022 thunderstorm caused a high-flow event that restructured strategic large wood additions, captured tons of sediment from adjacent Federal lands, and continues to evolve favorably by the day.

Sediment capture occurred almost immediately following large wood additions with an August 2022 high-flow, thunderstorm event. Large wood is needed to match the streamflow energy that is present in this upper, post-fire watershed whereas other restoration methods such as PALS and BDA's are not effective.





Leigh Ann burning juniper piles from a juniper reduction project: she assisted the landowner to mitigate the risk of an escaped burn in a challenging fuels environment while responsibly managing their smoke (Klamath Falls SSRA over the hill in the background).



Burning large slash piles following a green tree thinning/fuels mitigation project in Copperfield Draw (six landowner project). Her logging operator received the 2020 Operator of the Year for their work on multiple landowner projects (Darrell Jacobs Trucking).

Responsibly managing smoke, ensuring the required paperwork is complete, and completing the operation with slash disposal is part of what Leigh Ann provides to our landowners.

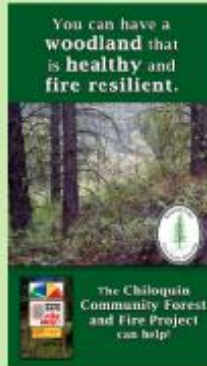


Leigh Ann contracted a hand crew for thinning on private land adjacent to a fish-bearing stream – using a diversity of tools to accomplish the most favorable outcomes in land management. She will assist in burning the piles to manage smoke, legal requirements, and manage fire risk for the landowner. Leigh Ann does start to finish forestry!



## OUTREACH

In 2018-2021 KLFHP reached out to landowners through mailings, meetings, workshops, phone calls, and visits. Partners from KLFHP and engaged landowners sought to make personal contact with every landowner in the project area to spread the word about this opportunity for technical and financial support. Outreach continues as appropriate when new funding sources for treatments are available.

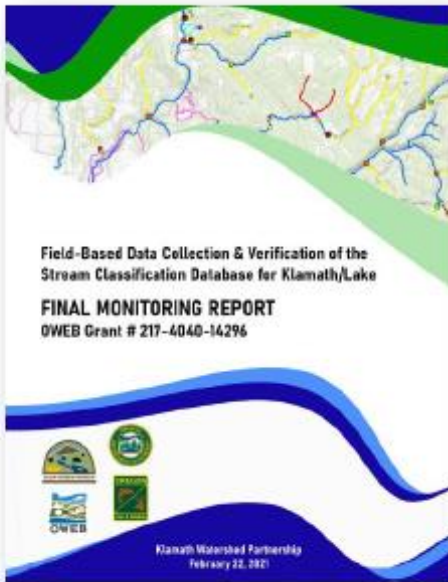


Oftentimes, the projects take years to develop with outreach, education, and building relationships with landowners that leads to project implementation.

Countless hours are spent before a project can even be developed where funding is then secured, plans are developed, and implementation is a year or two out.



Initial website development and subsequent upkeep for the *Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership* is performed by Leigh Ann who also serves as the Partnership secretary. The website is the basis for information sharing and communications with our landowners in a public forum with an appealing visual representation.



A concept to update the ODF/ODFW Klamath Unit stream layer for Forest Practices Act use became a project that continues this year, thanks to Leigh Ann.

Her listening skills led to the development of a solid project while implementing quality work that has provided invaluable new information to correct a severely flawed database; wherein forest operations are laid out and administered under the FPA.

This updated stream layer data was integrated into the 2023 Private Forest Accord stream update with Terrainworks to calibrate their work with on the ground verifications.

## MAPPING

In 2022 the Klamath Watershed Partnership (KWP) will be working with a GIS Specialist and a field forestry consultant to conduct mapping of private land forest and understory conditions across the project area. This effort is funded by a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Once completed, this information will be used to evaluate treatment needs across the landscape and to pursue funding for treatments.

If you would like to find out more about this effort or determine if you are in the project area and eligible for mapping done for your property, please contact Leigh Ann Vradenburg at 541-850-1717 or [lvradenburg@klamathpartnership.org](mailto:lvradenburg@klamathpartnership.org).

If you would like to grant permission for mapping on your property, please complete [this form](#).

Private land inventory data is lacking to provide fuels, vegetation type, and multiple other variables by which land managers may develop forest management plans working with landowners. Leigh Ann is contracting services for the field-based data collection and also the GIS services to process the data by which future large-scale projects are developed. This mapping is shared with State and Federal partners to complement a cross-boundary, coordinated approach to land management that includes wildfire suppression strategic lines, forest management that blends treatments across ownerships, and creates operational efficiencies.





Leigh Ann developed a plan and secured funding for a strategic post-fire fuelbreak on industrial timberland affected by the Bootleg fire. This mechanical harvest operation compartmentalizes future fire suppression efforts by providing safe travel corridors where snags within their height of the road have been felled. This work provides decades of snag free roads to travel while providing locations where fire suppression efforts may anchor. This effort is almost complete and well over 106 miles of private land roads have been snagged for human safety and reduction of risk for those using the roads for forest management activities. This project brings together similar efforts on Forest Service lands for a coordinated cross-boundary hazard tree and POD (*Potential Operational Delineation*) project at a large landscape level.





Logging layout and administration is integral to the work that Leigh Ann does for multiple landowners. Knowledge of forest laws, eastern Oregon logging systems, and forestry is key to implementing successful silvicultural treatments in balance with landowner desires. Landowners can be challenging to work with, and Leigh Ann spends countless hours listening, educating, and adjusting the operation with her contractors to balance so many variables at once.



From hiring contractors to renting the needed equipment to do the work herself, Leigh Ann tackles any project to get it done correctly. Leigh Ann is always there on the job working in any capacity that is needed to fill in gaps or provide project oversight.

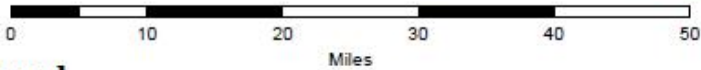
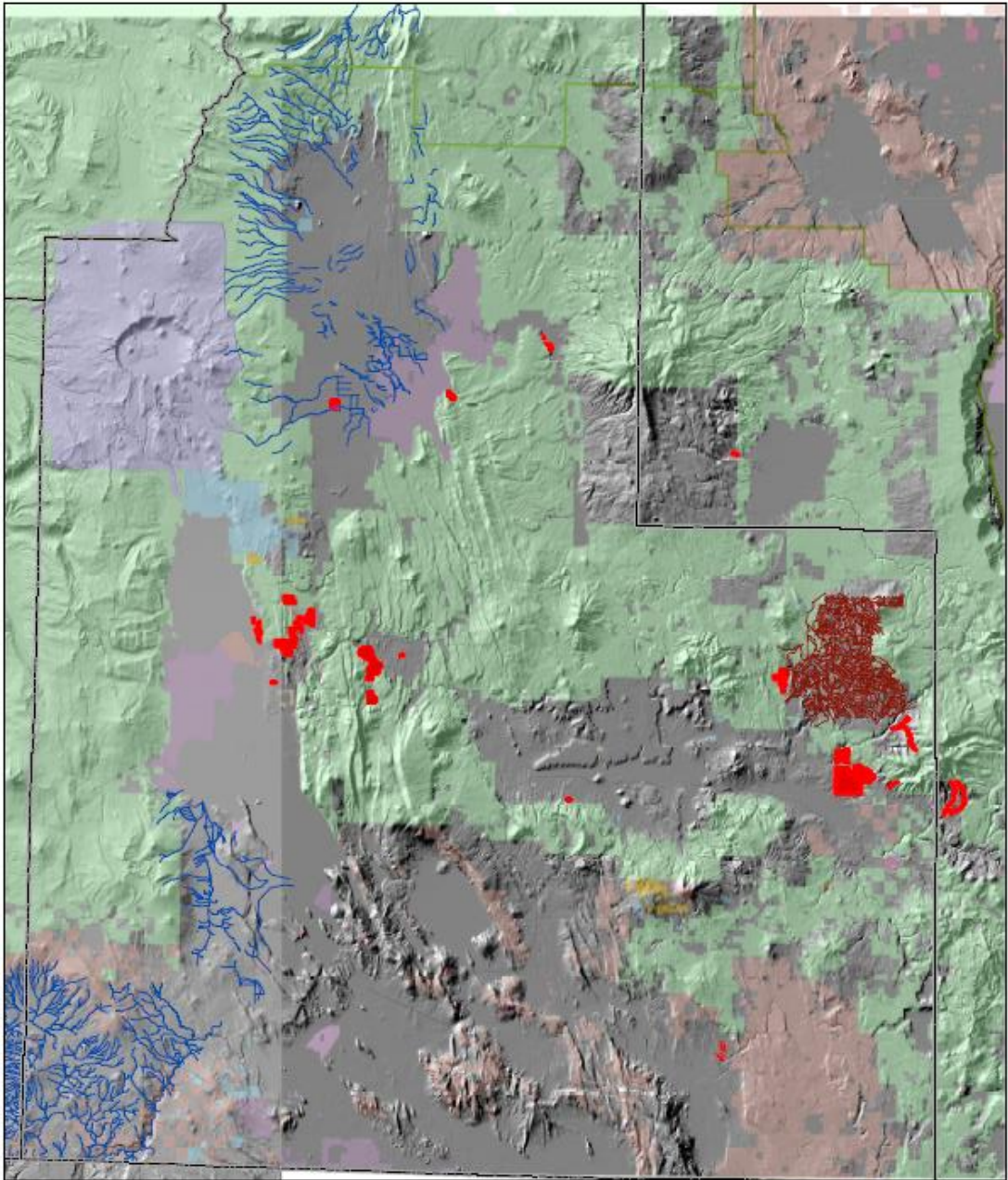
This post-fire wood straw was acquired and placed on private lands adjacent to an important spring (redband trout spring) where trees were then acquired and planted. Without Leigh Ann, this land would be without replanted pines and erosion control measures would have been insufficient.













# Leigh Ann Projects



Miles  
1 inch = 8 miles

## Legend

-  County
-  OWEB\_Aspen
-  OWEB\_Mazama
-  OWEB\_Camp\_4
-  OWEB\_Camp\_6
-  LAV\_NOAPS



Date: 07/11/2023

OR FOREST SERVICE



## ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING

There may be other methods of slash disposal that could be appropriate for your site. Depending on your objectives and the volume of material, other common techniques could include lop and scatter, mastication, or chipping and hauling. Talk with an Oregon Department of Forestry Stewardship Forester about your options.



Oregon Department of Forestry  
Klamath Unit - 541-883-5681  
Lake Unit - 541-947-3311

Notification/permits to use fire  
or power-driven machinery:  
<https://ferns.odf.oregon.gov/E-Notification>

# BURNING SLASH PILES



## ...AND DON'T FORGET REHAB

Former burn areas should be rehabilitated during the next growing season to minimize weeds. Harrow the burned area and seed with a native grass mix or plant bare root native shrubs.



Developed by the Klamath-Lake Forest  
Health Partnership for the  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
Klamath-Lake District  
2018



## GUIDELINES FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE BURNING





# BUILD

Proper slash pile construction and siting is important to set the stage for safe and complete burning.

**Build high and tight -**  
Minimize pile size by harvesting firewood. Create piles that are as tall as they are wide, minimizing air space within the pile.



**Keep it clean and dry-**  
Keep dirt and all non-vegetative material out of the piles to ensure complete consumption. Covering  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the pile with 4mil plastic may help keep material dry for lighting.

## Note the surroundings -

Locate piles so that there are no overhanging branches or power lines. Piles should have an enlarged footprint cleared of all flammable vegetation to reduce the risk of the fire spreading. Avoid placing piles near live trees or structures.

# BEFORE

In the days and hours leading up to burning, assess environmental conditions and check local restrictions.



## Check the forecast -

Never burn on dry or very windy days. Burning in damp conditions or when there is adequate snow cover (4"-6") will minimize risk of the fire spreading. A light breeze (<10mph) can help with smoke dispersal.

## Follow notifications and regulations -

» Call your local fire department during the week to verify burning is permitted and to notify them of the time and location of your burn.

» Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) requires permits for Power Driven Machinery (PDM's) and for all landowners burning forest land debris. Apply online at <https://ferns.odf.oregon.gov/E-Notification>

» A call to your ODF unit office is helpful for other notifications and to understand Smoke Management Guidelines.

» Useful resources include:

[www.klamathair.org](http://www.klamathair.org)

[www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/pages/Burn.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/pages/Burn.aspx)

# BURN

When you are ready to burn, timing, techniques, and tending are critical to safely accomplish disposal objectives.



## Time your burn -

Burn only as much as you can safely complete in your permitted burn window, and only as long as good conditions persist.



## Grab your tools -

A shovel and Pulaski should be readily available at all burn sites. Consider if a water source is needed.



## Light your piles -

Use a propane weed burner, drip torch, or other controlled ignition source. Start on the downwind side and try to light all sides. Only light as many piles as you can see and manage at one time.



## Tend to the end -

Stir and drown embers until the fire is dead out. Recheck burn areas for several weeks or months for any signs of heat or smoke. Revisit areas in the spring to look for smoldering spots that could reignite.





## NOTIFICATION OF OPERATIONS/PERMIT TO OPERATE POWER-DRIVEN MACHINERY (NOAP)



Notification Number: 2020-981-12585C  
Operation Name: Seput Thinning

### This NOAP includes the following for the lands described in the NOAP:

The notifier has given notice to the State Forester that an operation will be conducted.

The Oregon Department of Forestry or local Forest Protective Association has issued a permit to use fire or operate power-driven machinery.

*Before you use fire, contact the local office of the Oregon Department of Forestry or Forest Protective Association to see if additional burn permit and/or Smoke Management Program regulations apply.*

Person Submitting the NOAP: Leigh Vradenburg  
Date NOAP Submitted: November 22, 2020  
Report Generated: September 26, 2023  
This NOAP was CONTINUED on 12/16/2020 and will expire on 12/31/2021  
This NOAP was CONTINUED on 12/7/2021 and will expire on 12/31/2022

### Waiting Period

You must wait at least 15 days after successful submittal of this NOAP before starting the activities in the NOAP (see OAR 629-605-0150(1)). You may ask the Stewardship Forester to waive this 15-day waiting period, *but you must wait the full 15 days unless the Stewardship Forester notifies you that you may start sooner.*

### Oregon Department of Forestry Contact Info

Klamath Falls  
3200 DeLap Rd  
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601  
Phone: (541) 883-5681  
Stewardship Forester: Jason Pettigrew  
Email: jason.w.pettigrew@oregon.gov

### Operator's Fire Emergency Contact

Contact Name: Walter Seput  
Phone: 541-891-0020

### Landowner(s)

Walter Seput  
PO Box 900  
Chiloquin, Oregon 97624  
(541) 891-0020

### Notice to Landowner(s)

Reforestation may be required after timber harvesting. The Oregon Department of Forestry may conduct on-site inspections for compliance with forest practice and fire protection laws. Land use conversion to non-forest use is subject to other state and local regulations, which may affect use or development of a site.

### Timber Owner

Darrell Jacobs  
Darrell Jacobs Trucking Inc  
3867 Flint St  
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601  
(541) 891-8151

### Notice to Timber Owner

If timber is harvested, the party owning the timber at the point it is first measured is responsible for payment of Oregon timber taxes.

### Written Plans





A Written Plan (in addition to this NOAP) is required before operation activities can begin near the protected resources listed with the Unit information or Site Conditions below or otherwise described to you by the Stewardship Forester ([OAR 629-605-0170](#) (2), (3), and (5)). The Written Plan must describe in detail how the resource(s) will be protected during the operation. There is a waiting period for Written Plans that is separate from the notification waiting period. Contact your Stewardship Forester for more information.

#### Formal Comments from Oregon Department of Forestry

Jason W Pettigrew on 12/14/2021

The NOAP continuation is for the Use of Fire to dispose of the biomass material and PDM for motorized equipment for land management activities. The commercial harvest was completed last spring.

Jason W Pettigrew on 11/24/2020

Thank you for notifying and the request to waive the waiting period is granted to begin operations in those areas outside the requirements of the written plan comment period. No other resource concerns are present that have not been addressed in the layout of the operation with protection measures clearly identified on the ground.

#### Site Conditions (reported by the Notifier)

Stream within 100 feet of area.

Cultural resource in or adjacent to area.

#### Notices

Submitting this Notification of operations on lands described in the NOAP constitutes consent for Department staff to access the property to ensure compliance with state law and rules governing forest practices through on-site inspections. The landowner must notify the stewardship forester to withdraw this consent.

**Permission from Landowner and Timber Owner Required for Operators, purchasers, contractors, general public:** Submitting this notification does *not* give permission for operators, purchasers, contractors, or the general public to enter someone else's land or remove forest products. Anyone doing so must first obtain permission from the landowner and timber owner.

**Pesticide Use:** Pesticide users must follow all pesticide product label requirements, including any that prohibit applications near or into streams or other water bodies! Pesticide users must be sure the label that comes with the pesticide product allows the planned use! Contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture [here](#) or at 503-986-4635 for information on allowed uses of pesticide products.

**Operations Near Utility Lines:** If you are conducting timber harvesting or road construction within 100 feet of overhead utility lines contact the local utility in accordance with ORS 757.805 - Oregon's Overhead Safety Act and OAR 437-007-0230 - Power Line Safeguards. Identification tags are located on each pole.

Call the Oregon Utility Notification Center at 811 at least 2 business days before starting timber harvesting, road construction, or any other activities involving excavation that may affect an underground utility line. The Center will coordinate with the appropriate utility companies to locate underground utility lines that may be affected by your activities.

**Using Water for Pesticides or Slash Burning:** If you plan to use on-site water (water from a stream, for example) to mix pesticides or for slash burning, you must provide a copy of this NOAP to the local offices of the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (see ORS 537.141).

**Registrants & Subscribers:** There may be registrants and/or subscribers who receive this Notification. See the Notification Summary page within the E-Notification system or contact ODF for more details.

**NOAP Changes:** The notifier must inform the Oregon Department of Forestry of any changes in a NOAP before the activity takes place. A new NOAP may be required.



**Unit 1 of 1: Seput**

116.7 acres Klamath County(s) T34S R7E Sec15,T34S R7E Sec11,T34S R7E Sec14,T34S R7E Sec10 Regulated Use Area: KF-1

<b>Operator:</b> Darrell Jacobs Darrell Jacobs Trucking, Inc. 3887 Flint Street Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601 (541) 891-8151	<b>Activity:</b> Commercial Thinning/Selective Cutting <b>Start:</b> 11/30/2020 <b>End:</b> 12/31/2022 <b>Remarks:</b>	<b>Method(s):</b> Ground <b>Quantity:</b> 180.00 MBF
<b>Operator:</b> Darrell Jacobs Darrell Jacobs Trucking, Inc. 3887 Flint Street Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601 (541) 891-8151	<b>Activity:</b> Biomass Removal <b>Start:</b> 11/30/2020 <b>End:</b> 12/31/2022 <b>Remarks:</b>	<b>Method(s):</b> Ground <b>Quantity:</b> 621.00 Tons
<b>Operator:</b> Darrell Jacobs Darrell Jacobs Trucking, Inc. 3887 Flint Street Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601 (541) 891-8151	<b>Activity:</b> Precommercial Thinning <b>Start:</b> 11/30/2020 <b>End:</b> 12/31/2022 <b>Remarks:</b>	<b>Method(s):</b> Mechanical
<b>Operator:</b> Walter Seput PO Box 900 Chiloquin, Oregon 97624 (541) 891-0020	<b>Activity:</b> Use of Fire <b>Start:</b> 11/30/2020 <b>End:</b> 12/31/2022 <b>Remarks:</b>	<b>Method(s):</b> Burn Piles <b>Quantity:</b> 90.00 Acres
<b>Operator:</b> Darrell Jacobs Darrell Jacobs Trucking, Inc. 3887 Flint Street Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601 (541) 891-8151	<b>Activity:</b> Fuels Reduction <b>Start:</b> 11/30/2020 <b>End:</b> 12/31/2022 <b>Remarks:</b>	<b>Method(s):</b> Mechanical

**Resources on or near this Unit**

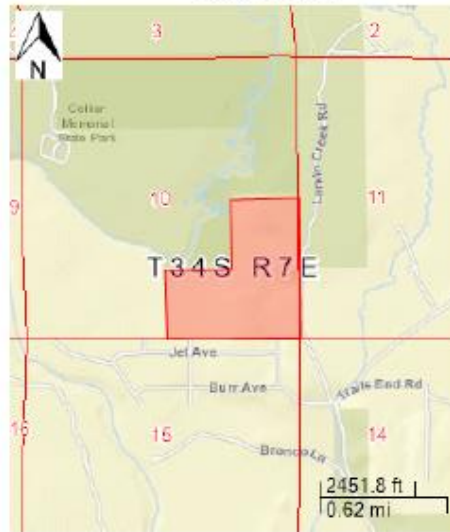
Statutory Written Plan required within 100 feet of	Statutory Written Plan required within 300 feet of
Unknown: Unknown - Type F Stream	Eagle
Wetlands: Freshwater Emergent Wetland, Freshwater Pond, Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	

**Notes:**

1. A statutory written plan is required for operations within 300 feet of Estuarine or Marine Wetlands, not 100 feet as may be shown above.
2. Contact your Stewardship Forester about streams not shown on the map.



Unit Map: Seput







# Oregon Department of Forestry Written Plan Form

"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

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A written plan specifically describes how a forest operation will be conducted to meet the minimum standards for resource protection prescribed by the forest practice rules. Include complete, detailed information about the operation to be conducted. While it is not necessary to use this form for a written plan, this form is cross-referenced with Forest Practices Notes #9, "Written Plans Guidance," to make writing a written plan easier. "Written Plans Guidance" contains checklists for each subsection in this form. Additionally, an Oregon Department of Forestry forest practices forester can answer questions about writing a written plan.

Please submit the completed Written Plan for Application of Chemicals as part of a Notification of Operations/ Application for Permis to Use Fire or Operate Power Driven Machinery on the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) E-Notification website at <https://ferns.odf.oregon.gov/e-notification> or to the stewardship forester at the ODF office in your area. A list of these offices are on the last page of this publication.

Landowner Name: Green Diamond Resource Company

Landowner Address: 6400 Highway 66, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Landowner Telephone Number(s): 541-884-2240

Operator Name: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Operator Address: 205 Riverside Dr., Suite C, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Operator Telephone Number(s): 541-850-1717

Written Plan Submitted By (write in address and telephone numbers if different than above):

Leigh Ann Vradenburg

Notification Number: not yet assigned

Legal Description of Operation Location: T36S, R15E, Section 16

Unit Name and/or Number: Deming Creek



**PART I – Protected Resources**

The purpose of this section is to specifically identify the type of resource site which requires protection. The written plan should identify the streams, wetlands, etc., by name or other identifiers.

**A. Water Bodies:**

Deming Creek, small, fish-bearing, RMA 50'

**B. Wildlife Sites:**

**C. Construction Sites/High Landslide Hazard Locations/Unstable Areas:**

**D. Additional Information** (attach additional sheets if necessary):



## PART II – Specific Site Characteristics

The purpose of this section is to provide a description of the existing site, including or adjacent to the protected resources.

### A. Time periods during which operations are not allowed or will be limited due to resource protection requirements:

There are no time period restrictions.

### B. Water Bodies:

Deming Creek is designated as a small, fish creek and therefore there are no basal area targets. Small Type F vegetation retention is required (10 feet on each side of high water level with submerchantable conifers retained).

### C. Describe the general vegetation types in the vicinity of the protected resource:

The majority of the middle Deming watershed and project area burned at high severity with high basal area mortality in the 2021 Bootleg Fire. Dominant tree species in the area include ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and white fir. Understory and riparian vegetation in the RMA includes willows, alder, grasses, and sedges. There is some natural regeneration and recovery of understory species, but it is delayed and hindered by erosion and cattle grazing.

### D. Describe the general topography:

Deming Creek is a tributary of the South Fork Sprague River. The elevation of the upstream end of the project area is approximately 5,220', and the downstream end is 5,020'. The project area section of Deming Creek flows southwesterly as it is coming out of the canyon and approaching the valley.

### D. Additional Information (attach additional sheets if necessary):



### PART III – Tree and Vegetation Retention/Vegetative Buffers

The purpose of this section is to describe the vegetative buffers and other trees/vegetation that will be retained during and after operations to prevent damage to the protected resource.

#### A. Protection of Water Bodies:

We will use OAR 629-605-0173(5)(c) Plans for an Alternate Practice - waiving or modifying a specific practice when doing so will improve soil, water quality, fish habitat, or wildlife habitat, and OAR 629-642-0600(3) Alternative Vegetation Retention Prescriptions - Catastrophic Events to address post-fire stream runoff that is leading to channel and habitat degradation and delayed recovery. The immediate goal is to restore stream and riparian function and to expedite ecosystem recovery by mimicking nature through the acceleration of wood placement into the RMA that would naturally occur in a high-severity, post-fire environment.

#### B. Wildlife Sites:

n/a

#### C. High Landslide Hazard Locations/Unstable Areas:

n/a

#### D. Additional Information (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Live Tree Retention (OAR 629-642-0000) applies as green trees will be retained where they exist (green meaning a tree that is evaluated and expected to survive >five years) and not felled unless they pose a safety risk. Reforestation (OAR 629-610-0000) does not apply as the felled material will not be traded, bartered, or sold under this project (however, reforestation with conifers in the RMA of Deming Creek is planned). Snag numbers and density will be greatly reduced by hand felling to mimic windthrow and natural snag decay. The variety of material sizes will enhance flow variability throughout the stream, providing habitat for a range of fish sizes/ages. As material naturally shifts, interlocking pieces will add complexity, creating a diversity of channel features ranging from pools to avulsions. Shading from the felled material will exceed the shading of standing material and provide an impediment to livestock grazing within the RMA during critical healing periods of the burned forest. As described in OAR 629-642-0200(2), large wood key pieces will provide relative stability to the additions, which will reconfigure with stream flow and processes over time to restore and maintain natural habitat for aquatic species; therefore, no artificial anchoring or constructed habitat structures will be used. Hand felled trees enhance sediment capture through natural processes to dissipate stream energy, create depositional opportunities, improve water quality, and promote bank stabilization that will expedite vegetative recovery. Understory vegetation, soil stabilization, and water quality will purposely be protected and enhanced with directionally felled trees to inhibit livestock grazing in the RMA.



## PART IV – Practices

All items indicated by the forest practices forester, and any others that apply to your specific operation, should be addressed in the written plan.

### Harvesting

#### A. Felling and Bucking:

Directional hand felling will be used on the entire project to reduce overall soil and site disturbance while maximizing the utilization of the material in the channel, drainages, and riparian zones. Snags of all species, heights, and diameters will be directionally felled into Deming Creek, limbed, and bucked when appropriate to capture sediment, reduce flow velocity to enhance hydrologic function, stabilize streambanks, and contribute cover/forage.

#### B. Yarding:

n/a

#### C. Landing Construction/Location:

n/a

#### D. Skid Trail Construction:

n/a

#### E. Stream Crossing:

n/a

#### F. Other Harvesting Items:

n/a

#### G. Additional Information (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Hazard trees (OAR 629-605-0500) will be directionally felled into the RMA or stream for public safety, habitat enhancement, and wood utilization exclusively for resource benefit.  
Treatment of slash (OAR 629-615-0000) and Felling; removal of slash (OAR 629-630-0600) do not apply as the intent is purposeful additions of woody debris to mitigate post-fire stream degradation effects.  
Reforestation (OAR 629-610-0000) is planned for conifers within the RMA (although not required). Hardwoods are naturally recovering and are expected to expand within the RMA with the soil stability and hydrologic function







"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

# Oregon Department of Forestry PLAN FOR AN ALTERNATE PRACTICE FOR Placement of Wood for Habitat Restoration Klamath-Lake District

Save Print Reset All

A plan specifically describes how a forest operation will be conducted to meet the minimum standards for resource protection prescribed by the forest practice rules. Include complete, detailed information about the operation to be conducted.

Please submit the completed Form for Plan for Alternate Practice for Meadow Restoration Operations in Near Streams and Significant Wetlands as part of a Notification of Operations/Application for Permits to Use Fire or Operate Power Driven Machinery on the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) E-Notification website at <https://ferns.odf.oregon.gov/e-notification> or to the forest practices forester at the ODF office in your area. A list of these offices are on the last page of this publication.

Landowner Name: Green Diamond Resource Company

Landowner Address: 6400 Highway 66, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Landowner Telephone Number(s): 541-884-2240

Operator Name: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Operator Address: 205 Riverside Drive, Suite C, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Operator Telephone Number(s): 541-850-1717

Plan Submitted By (write in address and telephone numbers if different than above): Leigh Ann Vradenburg

Notification Number: not yet assigned

Unit Name and/or Number: Deming Creek

Legal Description of Operation Location: T36S, R15E, Section 16



Oregon Department of Forestry ~ KLD ~ Plan for Alternate Practice - Placement of Wood for Habitat Restoration

TYPE OF OPERATION: Wood placement in RMA for post-fire restoration and livestock grazing deterrence

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROTECTED RESOURCE:

STREAM NAME: Deming Creek

STREAM SIZE: Small

(S, M, or L)

STREAM CLASS: Fish-bearing

(SSBT, F, D, or N)

WIDTH OF RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT AREA (RMA): 50 feet

Additional Resource Information:

Deming Creek is designated as a small, fish creek and therefore there are no basal area targets. Small Type F vegetation retention is required (10 feet on each side of high water level with submerchantable conifers retained). The following apply and are addressed as needed in the explanations below:  
OAR 629-605-0173(5)(c) Plans for an Alternate Practice - waiving or modifying a specific practice when doing so will improve soil, water quality, fish habitat, or wildlife habitat  
OAR 629-642-0600 (3) Alternative Vegetation Retention Prescriptions, Catastrophic Events  
OAR 629-605-0500 Modification of Requirements for Forest Health and Public Safety  
OAR 629-610-0000 Reforestation  
OAR 629-615-0000 & 0100 Treatment of Slash  
OAR 629-630-0600 Felling; Removal of Slash  
OAR 629-642-0000 Vegetation Retention Goals for Streams: Desired Future Conditions  
OAR 629-642-0200 Placing Large Wood Key Pieces in Type F or Type SSBT Streams to Improve Fish Habitat

VEGETATION RETENTION PRESCRIPTION TO BE USED: Site Specific Plan

(General, Alternate, Default, or Site Specific Plan)

FOR EACH SIDE OF THE STREAM, WHEN THE GENERAL PRESCRIPTION IS USED, THE FOLLOWING ARE REQUIRED:

1. Retain all understory vegetation within 10 feet of the high water level (HWL);
2. Retain all trees within 20 feet of the HWL;
3. Retain all trees growing in the RMA that lean over the channel; and
4. Retain all snags and downed wood in the RMA and channel

Explanation if Doing Something Different:

Live Tree Retention (OAR 629-642-0000) applies with this PFAP as green trees will be retained where they exist (green meaning a tree that is evaluated and expected to survive >five years) and not felled unless they pose a safety risk. Reforestation (OAR 629-610-0000) does not apply as the felled material will not be traded, bartered, or sold under this project (however, reforestation with conifers in the RMA of Deming Creek is planned).

Snag numbers and density will be greatly reduced by hand felling to mimic windthrow and natural snag decay processes within the RMA. Abundant replacement snags are found outside the RMA for thousands of acres. No downed wood will be removed from the RMA or channel.



**DESCRIBE ALL HARVESTING ACTIVITIES TO OCCUR WITHIN THE RMA AND ALL PROTECTION MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN TO PROTECT THE RESOURCE SITE DURING THE OPERATION:**

*(Such as tree felling, yarding methods, road construction, skid road location, tail hold locations and method of changing settings, landing location, location of stream crossings, type of stream crossing structures installed, etc.)*

Due to extensive basal area mortality throughout the watershed of Deming Creek, the existing streamside stand is too sparse and contains too few live conifers to maintain fish, wildlife, and water quality resources. The key objective of this PFAP is to use OAR 629-605-0173(5)(c) Plans for an Alternate Practice - waiving or modifying a specific practice when doing so will improve soil, water quality, fish habitat, or wildlife habitat, and OAR 629-642-0600(3) Alternative Vegetation Retention Prescriptions - Catastrophic Events to address post-fire stream runoff that is leading to channel and habitat degradation and delayed recovery. The immediate goal is to restore stream and riparian function and to expedite ecosystem recovery by mimicking nature through the acceleration of wood placement into the RMA that would naturally occur in a high-severity, post-fire environment.

Directional hand felling will be used on the entire project to reduce overall soil and site disturbance while maximizing the utilization of the material in the channel, drainages, and riparian zones. Snags of all species, heights, and diameters will be directionally felled into Deming Creek, limbed, and bucked when appropriate to capture sediment, reduce flow velocity to enhance hydrologic function, stabilize streambanks, and contribute cover/forage for aquatic species. The variety of material sizes will enhance flow variability throughout the stream, providing habitat for a range of fish sizes/ages. As material naturally shifts, interlocking pieces will add complexity, creating a diversity of channel features ranging from pools to avulsions. Shading from the felled material will exceed the shading of standing material and provide an impediment to livestock grazing within the RMA during critical healing periods of the burned forest. Green trees (OAR 629-642-0000) will be retained where they exist (green meaning a tree that is evaluated and expected to survive >five years) and not felled unless they pose a safety risk.

As described in OAR 629-642-0200(2), large wood key pieces will provide relative stability to the additions, which will reconfigure with stream flow and processes over time to restore and maintain natural habitat for aquatic species; therefore, no artificial anchoring or constructed habitat structures will be used.

Hand felled trees enhance sediment capture through natural processes to dissipate stream energy, create depositional opportunities, improve water quality, and promote bank stabilization that will expedite vegetative recovery. Understory vegetation, soil stabilization, and water quality will purposely be protected and enhanced with directionally felled trees to inhibit livestock grazing in the RMA. Hand felling is the only activity within the RMA; therefore there will be no vehicular/machine RMA access, yarding, skidding, or use of skid roads or stream crossings.

Hazard trees (OAR 629-605-0500) will be directionally felled into the RMA or stream for public safety, habitat enhancement, and wood utilization exclusively for resource benefit.

Treatment of slash (OAR 629-615-0000) and Felling; removal of slash (OAR 629-630-0600) do not apply as the intent is purposeful additions of woody debris to mitigate post-fire stream degradation effects.

Reforestation (OAR 629-610-0000) is planned for conifers within the RMA (although not required). Hardwoods are naturally recovering and are expected to expand within the RMA with the soil stability and hydrologic function facilitated by this project.



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

# Oregon Department of Forestry Written Plan Form for HARVESTING OPERATIONS NEAR TYPE F, D, OR N STREAMS

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A written plan specifically describes how a forest operation will be conducted to meet the minimum standards for resource protection prescribed by the forest practice rules. Include complete, detailed information about the operation to be conducted.

Please submit the completed Written Plan for Harvesting Operations Near Streams as part of a Notification of Operations/Application for Permis to Use Fire or Operate Power Driven Machinery on the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) E-Notification website at <https://ferns.odf.oregon.gov/e-notification> or to the stewardship forester at the ODF office in your area. A list of these offices are on the last page of this publication.

Landowner Name: Green Diamond Resource Company

Landowner Address: 6400 Highway 66, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Landowner Telephone Number(s): 541-884-2240

Operator Name: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Operator Address: 205 Riverside Drive, Suite C, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Operator Telephone Number(s): 541-850-1717

Written Plan Submitted By (write in address and telephone numbers if different than above): Leigh Ann Vradenburg

Notification Number: Not yet assigned

Unit Name and/or Number: Yaden Meadow

Legal Description of Operation Location: T35S, R15E, Section 32, North 1/2



Oregon Department of Forestry • Written Plan Form for Harvest Near Streams

TYPE OF OPERATION:  clearcut  partial cut

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROTECTED RESOURCE:

STREAM NAME:

STREAM SIZE:  (S, M, or L) STREAM CLASS:  (F, D, or N)

LENGTH OF STREAM INVOLVED: Side 1  feet (If both sides of stream) Side 2  feet

WIDTH OF RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT AREA (RMA):  feet AVERAGE SLOPE WITHIN RMA:  %

Additional Resource Information:

The Bootleg Fire caused extensive tree mortality in the RMA. This Written Plan is describing protection measures for a meadow and RMA restoration project through conifer removal.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSOCIATED COMPONENTS WITHIN THE RMA:

	SIDE 1	SIDE 2
The existing basal area (BA) of trees and snags > 6" currently in the RMA: <i>(Attach cruise cards to written plan)</i>	<input type="text" value="&lt; 20"/> sq. ft. BA	<input type="text" value="&lt; 20"/> sq. ft. BA
Minimum BA needed to meet the Standard Target for the length of stream within operation area:	<input type="text" value="N/A"/> sq. ft. BA	<input type="text" value="N/A"/> sq. ft. BA
Will Standard Target or Active Management Target be used to determine the BA left in the RMA?	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard Target	<input type="checkbox"/> Active Management Target
How much BA will be remaining in the RMA after the operation is complete?	<input type="text" value="N/A"/> sq. ft. BA conifer	<input type="text" value="N/A"/> sq. ft. BA conifer
	<input type="text" value="N/A"/> sq. ft. BA hardwood	<input type="text" value="N/A"/> sq. ft. BA hardwood
Minimum number of live conifer trees that must be retained within the RMA:	<input type="text" value="0"/> # Trees	<input type="text" value="0"/> # Trees
	<input type="text" value="0"/> # Trees	<input type="text" value="0"/> # Trees

VEGETATION RETENTION PRESCRIPTION TO BE USED:  (General, Alternate, Default, or Site Specific Plan)





Oregon Operations  
8400 Highway 66 Klamath Falls,  
Oregon 97601

T (541) 884-2240  
F (541) 880-5472  
greendiamond.com

Eastern Oregon Regional Forest Practices Committee

June 21, 2023

Re: Leigh Ann Vradenburg, Operator of the Year

Selection Committee,

I am writing this letter to wholeheartedly support the nomination of Leigh Ann Vradenburg for the Operator of the Year award in recognition of her outstanding efforts in promoting forest resiliency and watershed enhancement. I firmly believe that Leigh Ann is highly deserving of this honor due to her remarkable dedication, exceptional skills, and significant contributions in the Klamath Basin.

Having closely observed Leigh Ann's work in the field, I have been consistently impressed by her unwavering commitment to ensuring the health and sustainability of our forests and watersheds. Her tireless efforts to enhance forest resiliency, post fire mitigation and restoration, and protect our water resources have yielded remarkable results.

Leigh Ann has consistently demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of ecological systems and a keen ability to implement innovative and effective strategies to promote forest health and watershed enhancement. Through her leadership, we have witnessed significant improvements in water quality, increased biodiversity, and the overall resilience of productive forests.

Furthermore, Leigh Ann has actively engaged with local communities, stakeholders, and organizations to raise awareness about the importance of forest resiliency and watershed conservation. Her ability to effectively communicate complex concepts, mobilize resources, and foster collaborations has resulted in successful partnerships and long-lasting positive impacts.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Leigh Ann for the Operator of the Year award in recognition of her exceptional contributions to forest resiliency and watershed enhancement. Her dedication, expertise, and passion for promoting a healthy, resilient, and sustainable forest make her an outstanding candidate for this recognition.

Thank you for considering my endorsement, and I urge you to strongly consider Leigh Ann's nomination. Please feel free to reach out to me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

John Davis  
Vice President and General Manager, Mountain West Timberlands  
Green Diamond Resource Company  
541-880-5463





# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Forestry  
State Forester's Office  
2600 State St  
Salem, OR 97310-0340  
503-945-7200  
[www.oregon.gov/ODF](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF)

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Oregon Department of Forestry  
Eastern Oregon Area Regional Forest Practices Committee

Re: Leigh Ann Vradenburg, Eastern Oregon Area Operator of the Year Nomination, Support Letter

Oregon Department of Forestry, and Eastern Oregon Area Regional Forest Practices Committee,

I would like to take the opportunity to write this letter of strong support in the nomination of Leigh Ann Vradenburg, of the Klamath Watershed Partnership, for selection as the Eastern Oregon Area Operator of the Year.

Through the efforts Leigh Ann has initiated, the forests of the Upper Klamath River Watershed are getting the attention that they need and deserve. Through the lens of forest management, Leigh Ann has applied and carried out holistic forestry work for the betterment of the private landowners, forest landscapes, as well as the forest operators who make this vision a reality.

As a co-member of the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership, and through my role as a Lake Unit Stewardship Forester, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the tremendous effort, energy, attitude and knowledge that Leigh Ann brings to working and engaging to make our forest landscapes better. Through her role in the Klamath Watershed Partnership, Leigh Ann has been a true steward of our forests, and has operated in a fashion worthy of recognition. The work that Leigh Ann has engaged with will benefit the forest lands of all ownerships within the Upper Klamath River watershed (private non-industrial, private industrial, and Federal) for years to come.

To achieve the outcomes Leigh Ann has, she has been creative and taken new strategies to make all the variables and moving parts align. Opportunities first derived with seed money acquired through grants, has facilitated multiple types of treatment across our landscapes. The ability Leigh Ann has to leverage and think creatively as it relates to the necessity of the forests, the operators and operations, has made a strong, beneficial, and lasting difference for the stakeholders of both Klamath and Lake counties.

To name all of the activities that Leigh Ann has initiated to better our forests would require countless pages, so instead I will name a few of the activities Leigh Ann has enabled and bolstered: forestry technical assistance to private forest owners (non-industrial, and industrial); assistance with NOAPs and the Oregon Forest Practices Act (non-industrial, and industrial forest owners); grant



acquisition (non-industrial, and industrial forest owners); reforestation (non-industrial forest owners); forest stand improvement treatments (non-commercial thinning, commercial thinning, biomass operations on non-industrial and industrial ownerships); stream enhancement projects (utilizing slash and non-commercial residuals on non-industrial and industrial ownerships); water quality enhancement (through use of forest residuals and products on non-industrial and industrial ownerships); reduction of forest land wildfire hazards (non-industrial and industrial ownerships); commitment to education and outreach about forest health needs and wildfire risk reduction; as well as advocating in legislative settings for continued investment in forestry and natural resource management.

As noted, a common theme for the work carried out by Leigh Ann is finding opportunities and avenues to work with forest owners of all types – non-industrial and industrial. The ability to find appropriate funding for industrial forest owners is no easy endeavor, however Leigh Ann has a proven track record of making this happen.

Across the various aspects of the work Leigh Ann has facilitated, she has relied heavily upon the local forestry contracting and operating pool. While Leigh Ann has been able to facilitate and connect the dots to make these treatments happen, she will be the first to say that the activities she has engaged with would not have happened without the strong support, knowledge, and engagement of the local forest contractors and operators. Through the relationships she has established and built with these folks, Leigh Ann has been able to make a true difference for the forests of Klamath and Lake counties.

Lastly, Leigh Ann has been a strong partner of the Klamath Unit ODF. As the Unit has dealt with the recovery and planning associated with the last several years of wildfire, Leigh Ann has been closely engaged with Klamath Unit staff to restore and improve the forests of Klamath and Lake counties. Without the help and assistance Leigh Ann has provided to the Klamath Unit, the tasks already accomplished and those into the future, would not be as grounded, beneficial or successful as they are.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support to Leigh Ann Vradenburg, for the tremendous effort, attention, knowledge and energy she has brought to managing the forests of the Upper Klamath River watershed, within Klamath and Lake counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kasey Johnson".

Kasey Johnson  
Stewardship Forester  
Lake Unit

Oregon Department of Forestry



*Facilitating restoration projects on public and private forests in Klamath and Lake Counties through education, research, and direct participation*

June 28, 2023

TO: Review Committee  
FROM: Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership  
SUBJECT: Nomination – Leigh Ann Vradenburg – 2023 Eastern Oregon Operator of the Year

The Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership fully supports Leigh Ann Vradenburg's nomination for Eastern Oregon's Operator of the Year for 2023. As an employee of the Klamath Watershed Partnership and a vital member of the Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership, her dedication, passion, and endless efforts to address forest resource challenges in the Klamath Falls and Lakeview regions continue to be notable and more importantly successful. Every organization needs a strong leader and every cause needs a strong spokesperson. Leigh Ann has demonstrated the willingness time and time again in taking the lead to address the various aspects and challenges associated with forest health stewardship in the area.

As season after season of large wildfires continues to impact the Klamath and Lakeview areas, Leigh Ann's successful leadership to address these challenges is worthy of the nomination. Here are just a few examples of Leigh Ann's successful leadership:

- Writing and acquiring millions of dollars of financial grants to assist hundreds of non-industrial small forest landowners with wildfire reduction and forest health thinning treatments on thousands of acres.
- Working with multiple state, federal, industrial, and private forest landowners coordinating cross boundary restoration treatments to assure landscape level success.
- Educating hundreds of forest landowners on the benefits of wildfire and forest health treatments and patiently working with individuals with the application process, individual landowner goals, treatment options, and coordinating operations.
- Addressing thousands of acres of post fire treatment needs including critical riparian mitigation, site preparation, soil erosion control, fence reconstruction, acquiring seedlings and coordinating reforestation efforts.



- Coordinating extensive private land pre-treatment inventories and facilitating numerous meetings with wildfire at-risk communities to address fuel reduction and forest health resiliency needs and priorities.
- Assisting with the development of critical post treatment monitoring protocol to assure treatment objective goals are being met.
- Leigh Ann has been an active and vital member of the Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership assuring that the interest of smaller and private forest landowners are considered and addressed as adjoining state, federal and industrial landowners pursue treatments.

As we enter the 2023 fire season, the obvious questions arise.... where will the fires burn this year? How big will they be? How can we reduce their impacts? Knowing that wildfires will continue to pose a risk to our communities and forests, the Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership is honored to have such a diligent, knowledgeable, and strong advocate on its team to address this critical forest resource challenge and wildfire risk the region faces. Leigh Ann's success in overseeing and coordinating thousands of acres of wildfire mitigation and restoration treatments warrants her nomination as the 2023 Eastern Oregon's Operator of the Year award,

Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership

President – Mike Bechdolt



# **STOP #2**

## **RUDE LOGGING, LLC**

Eastern Oregon Regional Forest Practices Committee

Operator of the Year Tour – October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023



OPTIONAL RATING FORM  
OPERATOR RECOGNITION  
OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

CRITERIA	POINTS POSSIBLE	SCORE
CONSISTENCY	20	
DIFFICULTY	15	
CONCERN FOR RESOURCE	20	
INNOVATION/EFFORT	15	
RESULTS	30	
TOTAL SCORE		





## 2023 Operator Recognition Program – Nomination Form

AWARD CATEGORY: *Operator of the Year / Merit Award*

REGION (NW/SW/East): EOA

DISTRICT: COD

NOMINATED BY: Kirk Ausland

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### OPERATOR INFORMATION AND MAILING ADDRESS:

Operator Company Name: **Rude Logging, LLC**  
Company Address: PO Box 772, Prairie City OR. 97869  
Company Phone No. 541 206 2425  
Company Email: [tim@rudeinc.net](mailto:tim@rudeinc.net)  
Company Primary Contact Name (Owner): Tim Rude  
Contact Cell Phone No. 541 206 2425  
Contacts Email: Same

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### Operation Information (*Operation as example of work with RFPC tour*)

Activities: Harvest ( X ) Site Prep ( ) Reforestation ( ) Road Construction ( )  
Stand Management ( ) Other ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Operation: 09/27/2022-12/31/2022

NOAP No. 2022-952-11200

Location of Operation (Legal Desc & Landmark): T.13, R34, SEC11 Isham Creek

General Description of Operation: Tethered logging operation above and across a fish bearing stream. 190 acers. 600.00 MBF.

What were the protected resources involved and efforts involved: Isham Creek. (Type F) Efforts to protect included minimizing stream crossings and longer turns to accomplish this. Operator also armored the haul road within the RMA to prevent sediment from entering the stream.

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### Criteria of Award Nomination

Describe Operator's Consistency in performance over the years (use examples): Rude Logging has consistently worked within the FPA while producing outstanding results for several decades. The company has worked in all three Areas of the State while being based out of John Day. The company also has numerous individuals that have worked for Rude logging for many years, thus producing consistent results.

Describe the Difficulty and complexity of the operation nominated as well as past operations in regard to protection of forest resources: This was a difficult job because it involved a fish bearing stream at the bottom of the operation. The operation bordered the fish



bearing stream for over one mile. Slopes where the operation occurred were 70%-90% above the stream. The job was also very challenging for the operator since it involved the use of tethered logging equipment which was a first for the company. Weather/moisture also restricted the operation.

Describe how the operator was Innovative/Extra Efforts (including matching equipment to the job) or used extra effort on this operation and then Past Operations: **The Operator originally thought that he would have to install 4-5 temporary crossings across Isham Creek. Through innovation, he was able to reduce the number of crossings down to one. This meant much greater skidding distances, but the operator was willing to do it to protect the resource at risk. Because of topography, tethered logging was the best option for this job and was a recent investment by the operator.**

Describe Results in resource protection and forest management benefits: **This operation was a sanitation cut to remove most of the Douglas-fir which was heavy infected with dwarf mistletoe. This harvest will improve the overall health of the stand and reduce fire hazards as well. Resource protection of Isham Creek will ensure that the stream continues to run clear and continue to provide cold water to the John Day River.**

Describe the Financial Risk assumed by the operator as well as how much influence the landowner had on this operation: **As mentioned before, the Operator had just recently invested in tethered logging equipment, and this was his first job utilizing the new equipment. The financial risk was quite large since no one on the crew had experience operating tethered equipment. The landowner had been waiting for several years for the operator to be available to complete this job.**

OTHER INFO that should be known for consideration to help form a solid picture of your nominee:

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**Landowner of Operation listed above:**

Agency/Company:  
Contact Name: Jay Burril  
Title: Owner  
Email: N/A  
Phone No. 541 620 1559

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**Nominator(s):**

Name: kirk Ausland  
Agency/Company: ODF  
Title: Stewardship Forester  
Email: kirk.w.ausland@oregon.gov  
Phone No. 541 620 0145





## NOTIFICATION OF OPERATIONS/PERMIT TO OPERATE POWER-DRIVEN MACHINERY (NOAP)

Notification Number: 2022-952-11200C

Operation Name: Burril



### This NOAP includes the following for the lands described in the NOAP:

The notifier has given notice to the State Forester and the Department of Revenue of the intent to harvest timber.

<b>Person Submitting the NOAP:</b>	Tim Rude	This NOAP was CONTINUED on 12/29/2022 and will expire on 12/31/2023
<b>Date NOAP Submitted:</b>	September 27, 2022	
<b>Report Generated:</b>	September 26, 2023	

### Waiting Period

You must wait at least 15 days after successful submittal of this NOAP before starting the activities in the NOAP (see OAR 629-605-0150(1)). You may ask the Stewardship Forester to waive this 15-day waiting period, *but you must wait the full 15 days unless the Stewardship Forester notifies you that you may start sooner.*

### Oregon Department of Forestry Contact Info

John Day/Fossil  
415 Patterson Bridge Road  
John Day, Oregon 97845  
Phone: (541) 575-1139  
Stewardship Forester: Kirk Ausland  
Email: kirk.w.ausland@oregon.gov

### Operator's Fire Emergency Contact

Contact Name: Tim  
Phone: (541) 206-2425

### Landowner(s)

Jay Burril  
PO Box 222  
Prairie City, Oregon 97869  
(541) 620-1559

### Notice to Landowner(s)

Reforestation may be required after timber harvesting. The Oregon Department of Forestry may conduct on-site inspections for compliance with forest practice and fire protection laws. Land use conversion to non-forest use is subject to other state and local regulations, which may affect use or development of a site.

### Timber Owner

Jay Burril  
PO Box 222  
Prairie City, Oregon 97869  
(541) 620-1559

### Notice to Timber Owner

If timber is harvested, the party owning the timber at the point it is first measured is responsible for payment of Oregon timber taxes.

### Written Plans

A Written Plan (in addition to this NOAP) is required before operation activities can begin near the protected resources listed with the Unit information or Site Conditions below or otherwise described to you by the Stewardship Forester ([OAR 629-605-0170](#) (2), (3), and (5)). The Written Plan must describe in detail how the resource(s) will be protected during the operation. There is a waiting period for Written Plans that is separate from the notification waiting period. Contact your Stewardship Forester for more information.

### Formal Comments from Oregon Department of Forestry

Kirk Ausland on 1/24/2023  
Temporary stream crossing has been removed.

Kirk Ausland on 12/20/2022  
Felling is complete. The tethered machine was moved of site today.



Kirk Ausland on 12/1/2022  
Temporary crossing has been installed on Isham Creek.

Kirk Ausland on 10/12/2022  
Written Plan received and uploaded.

Kirk Ausland on 9/27/2022  
15 day waiting period waived for work outside the RMA.

#### Site Conditions (reported by the Notifier)

Stream within 100 feet of area.

#### Notices

Submitting this Notification of operations on lands described in the NOAP constitutes consent for Department staff to access the property to ensure compliance with state law and rules governing forest practices through on-site inspections. The landowner must notify the stewardship forester to withdraw this consent.

**Permission from Landowner and Timber Owner Required for Operators, purchasers, contractors, general public:** Submitting this notification does *not* give permission for operators, purchasers, contractors, or the general public to enter someone else's land or remove forest products. Anyone doing so must first obtain permission from the landowner and timber owner.

**Pesticide Use:** Pesticide users must follow all pesticide product label requirements, including any that prohibit applications near or into streams or other water bodies! Pesticide users must be sure the label that comes with the pesticide product allows the planned use! Contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture [here](#) or at 503-986-4635 for information on allowed uses of pesticide products.

**Operations Near Utility Lines:** If you are conducting timber harvesting or road construction within 100 feet of overhead utility lines contact the local utility in accordance with ORS 757.805 - Oregon's Overhead Safety Act and OAR 437-007-0230 - Power Line Safeguards. Identification tags are located on each pole.

Call the Oregon Utility Notification Center at 811 at least 2 business days before starting timber harvesting, road construction, or any other activities involving excavation that may affect an underground utility line. The Center will coordinate with the appropriate utility companies to locate underground utility lines that may be affected by your activities.

**Using Water for Pesticides or Slash Burning:** If you plan to use on-site water (water from a stream, for example) to mix pesticides or for slash burning, you must provide a copy of this NOAP to the local offices of the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (see ORS 537.141).

**Registrants & Subscribers:** There may be registrants and/or subscribers who receive this Notification. See the Notification Summary page within the E-Notification system or contact ODF for more details.

**NOAP Changes:** The notifier must inform the Oregon Department of Forestry of any changes in a NOAP before the activity takes place. A new NOAP may be required.



### Unit 1 of 1: Burril Fir

189.8 acres Grant County(s) T13S R34E Sec14,T13S R34E Regulated Use Area: MA-1,MA-2  
Sec11,T13S R34E Sec12

<b>Operator:</b> Tim Rude Rude Logging LLC PO Box 772 Prairie City, Oregon 97889 (541) 206-2425	<b>Activity:</b> Commercial Thinning/Selective Cutting <b>Start:</b> 10/3/2022 <b>End:</b> 12/31/2023	<b>Method(s):</b> Ground <b>Quantity:</b> 600.00 MBF
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### Resources on or near this Unit

Statutory Written Plan required within 100 feet of	Statutory Written Plan required within 300 feet of
Unknown: Unknown - Type F Stream	
Unknown: Unknown - Type F Stream	
Wetlands: Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	

### Notes:

1. A statutory written plan is required for operations within 300 feet of Estuarine or Marine Wetlands, not 100 feet as may be shown above.
2. Contact your Stewardship Forester about streams not shown on the map.

Unit Map: Burril Fir







Kirk Ausland,

Permit #2022-952-11200

This is a Statutory Written Plan pertaining to Burrill property located east of Prairie City Oregon. The plan of operations is to tether log approximately 90% of the 190 acre unit. The property was previously logged by hand felling oversize timber to numerous parallel and diagonal trail along the steep slope. With new technology we are able to use a traction line to tether a leveling feller buncher to cut and shovel or skid tree length to old existing skid trails. At this point the skidder or skid cat will shuttle trees to landings.

We are planning on installing up to four crossing with temporary culverts to skid across Isham Creek for better access to larger landings outside the RMA and one crossing for log hauling to accommodate truck traffic. There are existing roads that run parallel to Isham Creek that are close to the RMA, we will need to use these roads for skidding and log hauling. When these roads get close to Isham Creek we plan on putting clean brush from processed trees along the edge of road to act as a filter of possible sediment movement.

We understand that there is a <sup>25'</sup> no cut buffer along Isham Creek and an additional 25' basal area cut outside of that. <sub>20'</sub>

If I need to provide more detail please let me know.

Thank you,

Tim Rude

541-206-2425















# EASTERN OREGON REGIONAL FOREST PRACTICES COMMITTEE: NEXT STEPS

- Viewing of Nomination video
- Utilize the score card to score each of the nominations
- Committee members discussion for Operator of the Year
- Committee members vote for selection of Operator of the Year
- Committee members discussion on Merit Award awards for any Operator of the Year nominee not selected as Oper of Yr winner
- Vote for Merit Award recognition winners

