

Turnridge Timber Sale

Salem Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cascade Resource Area
North Santiam River Watershed, Rock Creek

Bark Hike on the second Sunday of September (9/9/01) lead by Jeremy Hall (Oregon Natural Resources Council). Units A-3, C-2 and C-3 were visited.

Status: Environmental Assessment expected out in the spring or summer of 2002. Surveys for species of concern as required by the Northwest Forest Plan and the Survey and Manage lawsuit completed for red tree voles, vascular plants, bryophytes, and spring fungi. Fall fungi surveys remaining.

BLM Timber Sale Project Leader and Contact: Keith Walton, 1717 Fabry Rd., Salem, OR 97306, (503) 375-5676

Context: Rare low elevation old growth forest groves located on highly fragmented sections of BLM lands. Only one square mile section is wholly BLM. Surrounded by heavily logged Santiam State Forest and timber industry lands. Currently, 370 acres of forest are being considered for regeneration harvest (clearcutting) and commercial thinning.

Issues:

The proposed units for the Turnridge sale contain some of the largest remaining trees in the Rock Creek drainage. The majority of the units consist of mature forests with isolated old growth or entire groves of old growth.

There are several small wetlands within the proposed units with skunk cabbage, sedges and scoured channels. Riparian Reserve protection for both non-fish bearing streams and seasonal streams are required under the Northwest Forest Plan.

Several units (i.e., A-2) already show signs of highly erodible soils with slumps and mass wasting in evidence. Logging these units, especially with ground based logging methods would result in degraded soil and fish-killing sediment laden streams.

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Photo Notes

[potential rtv 1 and 2]

Two potential RTV (Red Tree Vole) nests were easily identified during casual inspection in unit A-3. Oregon red tree voles are an old growth indicator species and a species of concern as defined by the

Northwest Forest Plan. The species of concern designation requires the BLM and the Forest Service to conduct surveys for these species before logging and to mitigate the impact of the forest destruction (logging) on these species. A common and often legally required mitigation practice is to create no-logging protection buffers around sites where these species of concern have been found.

[big wood]

Unit C-3 of the Turnridge timber sale includes many old growth trees.

[old tree]

Unit C-2 of the Turnridge timber sale includes this old growth Douglas fir with a diameter greater than 8 feet (26 feet in diameter).