



**Forest Service  
Pacific Northwest  
Region**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

## **BOLOGNA BASIN SALVAGE**

**February 2004**

- **CHAPTER IV – CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**
- **BIBLIOGRAPHY**
- **APPENDICES**

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# CHAPTER IV - CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Scoping letters were sent to the mail list of interested parties maintained at the Umatilla National Forest Supervisor’s Office. This included the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Three environmental interest groups (Oregon Natural Resources Council, Oregon Trout, and Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project) responded to scoping, as did six individuals, and one public agency. In addition, 148 additional citizens submitted a petition regarding the project. A list of individuals, organizations, and government agencies that receive this Environmental Assessment for the 30-day public review will be available in the Bologna Basin Salvage environmental analysis file.

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# APPENDIX A – BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Best Management Practices are the primary mechanisms used to enable the achievements of water quality standards (Environmental Protection Agency 1987). The Environmental Protection Agency has certified the Oregon Forest Practices Act and Washington Forest Practices Rules and Regulations as best management practices. The States of Oregon and Washington compared Forest Service practices with these State practices and concluded that Forest Service practices meet or exceed State Requirements.

Every year since 1996, the Umatilla National Forest has monitored a selection of projects for implementation and effectiveness of best management practices. The results of this monitoring have been published in annual Umatilla National Forest's Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Reports, which were combined with the Wallowa Whitman and Malheur National Forests' reports in 1998 into Monitoring and Evaluation Reports for the National Forests of the Blue Mountains. A substantial record of results exists. Some of these results are summarized in a poster which has been published on the internet. The poster is available on the Umatilla NF's web site (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/water/>), scroll down to Best Management Practices Monitoring Poster. The poster reports monitoring of timber sale riparian area boundaries, skid trail rehabilitation, and road decommissioning. Specific findings include:

- Implementation of Riparian Habitat Conservation Area buffers on harvest units generally met objectives, need improved documentation of stream category during layout,
- Use of harvester-forwarder systems results in more slash on skid trails, less ground disturbance, and reduces need for structural erosion control (waterbars),
- Road decommissioning activities were properly implemented and effective; some sites need revegetating,
- Documenting best management practices effectiveness still poses challenges, requires longer time frame for monitoring, and integration with instream water quality monitoring programs

The following Best Management Practices apply to the Bologna Basin Salvage Project.

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

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### T-1. Timber Sale Planning Process

- Description - Introduce hydrologic considerations into timber sale planning process.
- Location - Harvest units and haul routes.
- Effects - Avoidance of potential damage during and following the sale layout and subsequent logging operation.
- Application - Detrimental impacts to soil, riparian areas, and downstream water sources are reduced.

## **T-2. Timber Harvest Design**

- Description - Design timber harvest to secure favorable conditions of water flow, water quality and fish habitat.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Where adverse impacts on the water resource can result, the harvest unit design is modified, and/or watershed treatment measures are applied to accelerate the natural recovery rate.
- Application - Detrimental impacts to soil, riparian areas, and downstream water sources are reduced through location of units and mitigation measures 1, 3 through 11.

## **T-3. Use of Erosion Potential Assessment for Timber Harvest Unit Design**

- Description - Identify areas with high erosion potential and adjust harvest unit design as necessary.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Modify or eliminate harvest activities on areas with high erosion potential.
- Application - Unit location modified to avoid areas of high concern, mitigation measures 3, 4, 10, and 11, reduce effects of erosion associated with harvest.

## **T-4. Use of Sale Area Map for Designating Water Quality Protection Needs**

- Description - Delineate the location of protection areas and available water sources for both the Purchaser and the Sale administrator to ensure their recognition and proper consideration and protection on the ground.
- Location - Entire sale area.
- Effects - Detrimental impacts to protected areas are reduced.
- Application - Protected areas are identified on the Sale Area Map.

## **T-5. Limiting the Operating Season**

- Description - Ensure that the purchaser conducts operations in a timely manner, within the period specified in the timber sale contract.
- Location - All harvest units and haul routes.
- Effects - Detrimental impacts to soils, water, and other resources are reduced.
- Application - Mitigation measure 10 was identified to limit operation periods in order to protect soils.

#### **T-7. Streamside Management Unit Design**

- Description - Harvest is designed to ensure protection of streambanks and streamside vegetation.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Minimize potential adverse effects of logging and related land disturbance activities on water quality and beneficial uses.
- Application - Units were identified in uplands, and mitigation measures 1, 5, 8, 9, and 11 would avoid activities within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas.

#### **T-8. Streamside Protection (Implementation and Enforcement)**

- Description - (1) Protect the natural flow of streams, (2) Provide unobstructed passage of streamflows and (3) Prevent sediment and other pollutants from entering streams.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Potential adverse effects to streams from harvest activities would be minimized to maintain water quality.
- Application - Mitigation measures 1, 5, 8, 9, and 11 would be monitored by the District Aquatics Specialist, and/or Timber Sale Administrator.

#### **T9. Determining Tractor Loggable Ground**

- Description - Tractor logging is restricted to lands that can be harvested with a minimum of soil compaction and erosion. Factors considered when selecting tractor operable land are: slope, topography, soil texture, soil drainage, and drainage patterns.
- Location - Land suitable for tractor logging is identified in the pre-sale (planning) phase of the timber sale planning process. Provisions in the Timber Sale Contract (TSC) specify the areas and conditions upon which tractors can operate. Requirements governing tractor operations are incorporated in the Timber Sale Contract (TSC).

- Effects - Detrimental impacts (compaction, displacement, erosion) to soils and potential impacts to downstream water quality are reduced by determining the most effective logging operational method.
- Application – Alternative 2 specifies the units located on land harvestable by tractor, and mitigation measures 3 and 4 further restrict harvest options to protect soil and water quality.

#### **T-10. Logging Landing Location**

- Description - Locate landings to minimize creation of hazardous watershed conditions.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Detrimental impacts (compaction, displacement, erosion) to soils and potential impacts to downstream water quality are reduced.
- Application - As per mitigation measure 4, the Timber Sale Administrator approves landings, using existing landings where possible. Landings will not be located inside PACFISH Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas, cultural sites, or in-place emergency rehabilitation structures.

#### **T-11. Tractor Skid Trail Location and Design.**

- Description - Locate and approve skid trails in advance of skidding to minimize soil compaction, erosion, and water runoff .
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Careful control of skidding patterns can minimize on-site compaction and off-site soil movement.
- Application - Mitigation measures 4 and 10 would reduce soil disturbance and compaction due to skid trails. As per mitigation measure 4, the Timber Sale Administrator approves skid trails, using existing trails where possible. Skid trails will not be located inside PACFISH Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas, cultural sites, or in-place emergency rehabilitation structures.

#### **T-12. Suspended log Yarding in Timber Harvesting**

- Description - Yarding is designed to protect soils from excessive disturbance and maintain the integrity of sensitive watershed areas.
- Location - Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 20, 32, and 33 in Alternative 2 and all units in Alternative 3.
- Effects - Detrimental impacts to soils and water quality are reduced.
- Application - Mitigation measure 3 requires full log suspension in designated units.

**T-13. Erosion Prevention and Control measures During Harvest Operation**

- Description - Ensure that the purchaser's operations shall be conducted to minimize soil erosion.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Prevent/control erosion and sediment movement.
- Application - The Timber Sale Contract sets forth Purchaser's responsibilities, including mitigation measures 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 and the Timber Sale Administrator monitors operations for compliance.

**T-14. Revegetation of Areas Disturbed by Harvest Activities**

- Description - Where soil has been severely disturbed by the Purchaser's operation, and the establishment of vegetation/cover is needed to minimize erosion and protect water quality, the Purchaser shall take appropriate measures normally used to establish an adequate cover of grass or other vegetation (i.e. seeding) as necessary, or take other agreed upon stabilization measures.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Vegetative cover will be established on disturbed sites to prevent erosion and sedimentation.
- Application - Mitigation measure 12 details when and how revegetation will occur.

**T-15. Log Landing Erosion Prevention and Control**

- Description - Landings will be monitored for erosion and compaction, and treated where necessary.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Soil erosion and compaction are reduced.
- Application - Mitigation measure 11 would require water bars, subsoiling, and seeding as necessary, to be monitored by the Timber Sale Administrator or Aquatics Specialist.

**T-16. Erosion Control on Skid Trails**

- Description - Design skid trails to protect water quality by minimizing erosion and sedimentation.
- Location - All skid trails.
- Effects - Water quality is protected by minimizing erosion and sedimentation derived from skid trails.
- Application - Mitigation measure 4 would require review and approval of skid trail locations and mitigation measure 11 would require rehabilitation of skid trails after harvest.

**T-18. Erosion Control Structure Maintenance**

- Description - Ensure that constructed erosion control structures are stabilized and working.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Long-term soil productivity is maintained and impacts to downstream water quality are reduced.
- Application - Mitigation measures 11 and 15 would require that erosion control structures on haul routes be maintained.

**T-19. Acceptance of Timber Sale Erosion Control Measures Before Sale Closure**

- Description - Ensure purchaser completes adequate erosion control work on timber sales.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Detrimental impacts to water quality are eliminated by reducing erosion and sediment movement to downstream water sources.
- Application - Timber Sale Administrator would perform inspections before the sale is closed to check for effectiveness of erosion control work (including mitigation measures 4 and 11) completed by the purchaser.

**T-20. Reforestation**

- Description – Reforest all suitable land harvested within five years after the regeneration cut and to promptly reforest all other suitable areas not harvested but in need of reforestation.
- Location – Units 13, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, and 33.
- Effects – Detrimental impacts to water quality are mitigated by stabilizing soils, increasing ground cover, and improving infiltration.
- Application – During the timber sale planning process, the interdisciplinary team assesses the capability of proposed areas to achieve reforestation within the prescribed period.

**T-21. Servicing and Refueling of Equipment**

- Description - Prevent pollutants from being discharged into or near rivers, streams, and impoundments or into natural or man-made channels leading to such areas.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Detrimental impacts to water quality will be reduced by restricting fueling locations to certain areas.

- Application - Servicing of all equipment would be done only in areas approved by the Forest Service so that any spills would not reach a stream course or wet area. The District has a Hazardous Spill Plan in place. The timber sale contract will prohibit the spillage of hazardous substances, will require the purchaser to have a hazardous material plan. The timber sale contract will require the purchaser to have a fuel spill prevention plan if on-site quantities are greater than 660 gallons in one container or a total of more than 1320 gallons.

#### **T-22. Modification of Timber Sale Contract**

- Description - Modify the Timber Sale Contract if new circumstances or conditions arise that indicate that the timber sale will irreversibly damage soil, water, or watershed values.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Watershed values are placed ahead of timber harvest.
- Application - The Chief of the Forest Service could modify the Timber Sale Contract if watershed values are unacceptably compromised.

## **ROAD SYSTEM**

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#### **R-4. (Temporary) Road Slope Stabilization (Planning)**

- Description – Road stabilization considerations begin in the reconnaissance and location of temporary roads. Stabilization measures will be planned for completion on all disturbed ground prior to the winter season, when erosion is most severe.
- Location – Construction of temporary roads to units 16, 21, 24, 26, and the northern portion of Unit 33.
- Effects – Reduce sedimentation by minimizing erosion from road slopes and minimizing the chances for slope failure along roads.
- Application – Mitigation measure 15 would minimize the sedimentation from the temporary roads.

#### **R-7. Control of Road Surface Drainage**

- Description - Minimize possible detrimental effects of surface drainage of road.
- Location – All haul routes.
- Effects - Reduce sedimentation associated with roads.
- Application - Mitigation measures 10 and 15 would minimize the erosive effects of water concentrated by road drainage features and disperse runoff from the road using water spreading ditches, drivable dips, and road surface grading.

**R-18. Maintenance of Roads**

- Description - Provide for water quality protection by maintaining roads through the control of waste material placement, keeping drainage facilities open, and by repairing ruts and failures.
- Location - All Level 1 and above roads.
- Effects - Detrimental impacts to water quality from road maintenance activities are reduced.
- Application - Mitigation measure 15 would maintain proper drainage of affected roads.

**R-19. Road Surface Treatments to Prevent Loss of Material**

- Description - Minimize the erosion of road surface materials and consequently reduce the likelihood of sediment production from those areas.
- Location - All Level 1 and above roads.
- Effects - Detrimental impacts to the road prism from erosion and adjacent water sources are prevented.
- Application - Standard road surface treatments required in the Timber Sale Contract would control dust during dry periods.

**R-20. Traffic Control During Wet Periods**

- Description - Reduce road surface damage and rutting of roads to lessen sediment washing from road surfaces.
- Location - All haul routes.
- Effects - Detrimental impacts to forest road surfaces and forest road users are reduced.
- Application - Mitigation measures 10 and 15 would protect roads during wet conditions.

**R-23. Obliteration of Landings**

- Description - Repair soil damage or disturbance and revegetate landings.
- Location - All landings used by the timber sale purchaser.
- Effects - Downstream water sources are not affected, big game species are not harassed, and soil productivity is maintained.
- Application - Mitigation measure 11 would obliterate landings upon completion of sale activities through subsoiling, waterbarring, and/or seeding (subsoiling must alleviate compaction without churning the soil).

## **FIRE SUPPRESSION AND FUELS MANAGEMENT**

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### **F-1. Fire and Fuel Management Activities**

- Description - Reduce the public and private losses that could result from wildfire and/or subsequent flooding and erosion by reducing the frequency, intensity, and destructiveness of wildfire.
- Location - All treatment units.
- Effects - Increase of fire-tolerant species in the stands, and create a break in fuels to facilitate prescribed natural fire, fire suppression activities, and fuels reduction, and reduce erosion and sediment related to severe wildfire.
- Application - Alternatives 2 and 3 contain design elements that would reduce activity-related and natural fuels and mitigation measure 20 would reduce fire intensity in thinning debris.

### **F-2. Consideration of Water Quality in Formulating Prescribed Fire Prescriptions**

- Description - Maintain water quality by limiting the amount of soil exposed by prescribed burning.
- Location - All treatment units.
- Effects - Limited soil erosion and reduced water quality impacts.
- Application - Mitigation measures 20 would ensure that fire prescriptions use factors such as fire weather, slope, aspect, soil moisture, and fuel moisture to maintain prescribed flame lengths and maintain desired soil and vegetative cover. Mitigation measure 21 would limit effects on soils due to fire control lines.

### **F-3. Protection of Water Quality During Prescribed Burning Operations**

- Description - Maintain soil productivity, minimize erosion, and prevent ash, sediment, nutrients, and debris from entering water bodies.
- Location - All treatment units.
- Effects - Water quality will be maintained; downstream users of water will not be affected.
- Application - Weather and fuel conditions will be checked during prescribed burning to ensure that soil and water protection parameters set by the burn prescription (including mitigation measure 20) are met; otherwise burn techniques will be adjusted accordingly.

## **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

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### **W-3. Protection of Wetlands**

- Description - Avoid adverse water quality impacts associated with destruction or modification of wetlands by excluding activities within wetlands.
- Location - All harvest units.
- Effects - Wetlands are protected from degradation.
- Application - Mitigation measure 1 will exclude ground-disturbing activities within wetlands; the fire prescription will address maintaining vegetative cover in wetlands during prescribed burning.

**W-4. Hazardous Substance Spill Contingency Plan and Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure Plan**

- Description - Prevent contamination of Umatilla National Forest from accidental spills.
- Location - entire sale area; spill plan is located at the Umatilla N.F. Supervisor's Office.
- Effects - Oil products are prevented from entering the navigable waters of the United States.
- Application - Standard language in the sale contract addresses fueling and maintenance of equipment.

**W-5. Cumulative Watershed Effects**

- Description - Protect the beneficial uses of water from the cumulative effects of past, present, and future management activities that could result in degraded water quality or stream habitat.
- Location - Entire project area.
- Effects - Activities that could result in cumulative damage to water quality are altered or eliminated as appropriate.
- Application - A cumulative watershed effects analysis was conducted for the Bologna Basin Salvage analysis area and beneficial uses that comply with applicable State requirements for protection of waters have been identified in the Environmental Assessment.

**W-7. Water Quality Monitoring**

- Description - Determine the effects of the proposed action on the beneficial uses of water, monitor baseline watershed conditions for comparison with State Water Quality and Forest Plan standards and estimate long-term trends, ensure the health and safety of water users, and evaluate BMP effectiveness.
- Location - Entire project area.

- Effects - Monitoring would ensure that mitigation to protect water quality is effective, and, if not, would recommend changes for future activities.
- Application - Monitoring item 1 on page 47 applies to this BMP.

**W-8.** Management by Closure to use (Seasonal, Temporary, and Permanent)

- Description - Exclude activities that could result in damage to either resources or improvements, such as roads and trails, resulting in impaired water quality.
  - Location - All harvest units.
  - Effects - Maintain downslope water quality, sustain the current condition of the watershed, and exclude activities that may result in additional resource damage and impair healthy water systems.
  - Application - Mitigation measures 10 and 23 would limit management activities to protect soil and wildlife during sensitive periods.
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# APPENDIX B – CUMULATIVE ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED

Maps showing the locations of all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities considered for the Cumulative Effects Analyses in this Environmental Assessment are located in the project record.

## PAST ACTIVITIES

Table 53. Previous Timber Sales in Bologna Basin

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sale Name</u>	<u>Area Acres</u>	<u>Condition</u> <sup>1</sup>
1966	Dark Canyon	14	Recovered. Rock Outcroppings and Grass
1967	Unknown name	73	Recovered to grass and trees <sup>2</sup>
1969	Happy Jack	<1	Recovered. Mahogany Thicket
1972	Ant Hill	189	Recovered. Rock Outcroppings and Grass
1976	West Bologna	2829	Recovered to Grass and Trees
1977	Tamarack	41	Recovered to Grass and Trees <sup>3</sup>
1987	Putnam '87	879	Recovered to Grass and Trees
1988	Putnam '88	65	Recovered to Grass and Trees
Total		4090	

<sup>1</sup> See conditions described in Vegetation Report (Project file)

<sup>2</sup> Includes Bologna Basin Unit 7

<sup>3</sup> Includes Bologna Basin Units 1, 3 and 6

Table 54. Previous Wildfire in Bologna Basin

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fire Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Condition</u> <sup>1</sup>
1961	Thorn Springs	786 Acres	Recovered to grass and juniper

The Heppner Ranger District also has approximately 30 small fire starts within the Bologna Basin Analysis Area on record.

<sup>1</sup> See conditions described in Vegetation Report (Project file)

Table 55. Previous Non-commercial Thin Activities in Bologna Basin

<u>Year</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Various years	116 Acres	Partial defoliation in Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine by Tussock Moth in 2000

Other previous activities that were considered in cumulative effects analyses included:

- Prescribed burning of 5,000 acres on a 7-year rotation. The last burn was in 2000.
- Road construction
- Logging on private lands within the Bologna subwatershed
- Activities on 1,891 acres of land managed by the USDI Bureau of Land Management. The Bureau of Land Management has nothing planned on this land. The Bureau of Land Management is preparing a management plan covering this area that should be ready within two years.
- Cattle Grazing on private and BLM land within the Bologna subwatershed

## **PRESENT ACTIVITIES**

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Other ongoing activities that were considered in cumulative effects analyses included:

- Grazing (fencing and 28 water developments) – Tamarack-Monument allotment
- Fire suppression
- Noxious weed treatment

## **REASONABLY FORESEEABLE FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

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Foreseeable future activities that were considered in cumulative effects analyses included:

Approved but not yet implemented:

- Five planned water source developments with fences on Forest land
- Rimrock Ecosystem Restoration Projects
- Rail Salvage Unit 1 Project
- Bacon-Sunflower

Planned:

- Grazing (fencing and water) developments in the Tamarack-Monument allotment
- Prescribed burning on approximately 50 percent of the area of the Analysis Area.

## APPENDIX C – SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS BY ISSUE

### WATER QUALITY

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<u>Respondent / Date</u>	<u>Concern</u>
<b>ONRC (Environmental Group) 4/25/02</b>	Soil and vegetation disturbance in key or municipal watersheds and effects to water quality. Prepare a cumulative effects analysis of logging on the hydrology of the entire watershed. (recommend model from Region 5 that predicts sediment from road and logging activities to be used in addition to the ARP, Threshold of Concern, or EHA analysis). Estimate the change in surface and subsurface water flow that would result from activities in the sale area.
<b>Asante' Riverwind (Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project) (Environmental Group) 5/8/02</b>	Commercial logging causes erosion and sedimentation and increases peak flows.

### ECONOMIC COSTS AND BENEFITS

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<u>Respondent / Date</u>	<u>Concern</u>
<b>Rick Isaacson (Interested public) 5/13/02</b>	Expressed dissatisfaction with the job the Forest Service has done in "putting together a decent sale proposal that actually has a component of profit for the successful bidder." However, this comment was not project specific.

### SOIL PRODUCTIVITY AND EROSION

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<u>Respondent / Date</u>	<u>Concern</u>
<b>Asante' Riverwind (Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project) (Environmental Group) 5/8/02</b>	Commercial logging degrades soil and vegetation.

## WILDLIFE HABITAT

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<u>Respondent / Date</u>	<u>Concern</u>
<b>ONRC (Environmental Group) 4/25/02</b>	Timber harvest and roads within late-seral forests (>80 years old) and ancient forests of any size to prevent fragmentation. Timber harvest and road construction within inventoried roadless areas or unroaded areas >1,000 acres or adjacent to inventoried roadless areas or wilderness.
<b>Oregon Trout (Environmental Group) 4/18/02</b>	Disposition of juniper and mountain mahogany in the project. How the Forest Service will determine what is a sufficient number of snags for retention. Roads constructed as part of the 1987/88 Putnam Timber Sale should be decommissioned to improve big game habitat. Effects of project on any C1 (Designated Old-Growth) acres within the management unit. If past fire suppression and livestock management contributed to the current condition of vegetation in Bologna Basin, how those management actions will be adjusted in the future to assist in recovery.
<b>Asante' Riverwind (Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project) (Environmental Group) 5/8/02</b>	Where insects have caused tree mortality, commercial thinning usually further degrades forest habitat, resulting in diminished populations of the very wildlife and insect species that keep tree-killing insect populations in balance. Sufficient forest canopy within or near an area of high insect-caused tree mortality needs to be maintained to support the numerous forest species (woodpeckers, song birds, arthropods, parasitic wasps, etc.) that will help keep such insect populations in balance. Many stands within Bologna Basin were not historically "open, park-like ponderosa pine". Much of the area is 4,000-5,500+ feet in elevation consisting of many fir, western larch, and spruce, as well as ponderosa pine and juniper. Stands with north, northeast, or northwest facing slopes, and moist areas were generally mixed conifer stands historically. If such a project is truly needed, cut no trees greater than 16 inches DBH. Develop an alternative that both restores the area as viable habitat for historically present species, as well as maintains the area as habitat for native species currently utilizing it.

## NOXIOUS WEED SPREAD

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<u>Respondent / Date</u>	<u>Concern</u>
<b>ONRC (Environmental Group) 4/25/02</b>	Roads increase spread of invasive weed species.

## RIPARIAN HABITAT QUALITY

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<u>Respondent / Date</u>	<u>Concern</u>
<b>ONRC (Environmental Group) 4/25/02</b>	Roads within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. Assess and analyze stream crossings in particular. Stream crossings need to be able to withstand 100-year floods and if they fail, and measures are needed to prevent diversion of streamflow onto the road if a failure occurs. Outslope roads to minimize sediment delivery to streams. Restore and maintain fish passage at all road crossings of existing and potential fish-bearing streams.
<b>Oregon Trout (Environmental Group) 4/18/02</b>	Activities within riparian areas, whether perennial or ephemeral—maintenance of streamflows and water quality in East and West Bologna Creek.
<b>Asante' Riverwind (Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project) (Environmental Group) 5/8/02</b>	Commercial logging decreases water retention. A comprehensive assessment of the current ecological functioning and long-term restoration is needed, including degradation by livestock grazing, excessive road densities, past and recent logging on public and private lands, and soil compaction and restoration.

## FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT

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<u>Respondent / Date</u>	<u>Concern</u>
<b>Oregon Natural Resources Council (Environmental Group) 1/26/04</b>	<p>It is well -recognized that tree boles help hide deer and elk. And the value of the large trees (even if they are dead) as cover lasts for at least long enough for the vegetation to become re-established.</p> <p>The analysis must account for the fact that big game cover will be degraded even in places where it is not currently optimal, and this degradation of non-optimal habitat has direct impacts on big game that may not be accounted for in the HEI formula.</p>

Analyze the cumulative effects of eliminating this big game habitat standard for this project and similar projects. Disclose all similar past and prospective plan amendments. If there is a pattern or an anticipated conflict between big game habitat and "forest health" logging projects (fuel reduction, etc), then the LRMP probably needs to be amended at a broader scale with full NEPA/EIS analysis, broader public participation, and full NFMA procedures.

**Blue Mountain  
Biodiversity Project  
(Environmental Group)  
2/5/04**

An amendment will jeopardize the elk population by unnecessarily limiting habitat. Non-significant Forest Plan amendments, after repeated use, become significant Forest Plan amendments.

The Land and Resource Management Plan specifies that 30% of an area should be managed as effective cover "with a minimum of 10% of the winter range as satisfactory cover." As this amendment will reduce the amount of effective cover, there needs to be further analysis on the types of cover available to the elk population before consideration of the timber sale.

**American Forest  
Resource Council  
(Industry Group) 2/3/04**

AFRC fully supports the proposal to amend the Forest Plan to facilitate timely implementation of the project given the insect and disease problems in the area. Without timely treatment, both public and private lands are at risk including that of wildfire.

## RISK TO ADJACENT LANDS

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<u>Respondent / Date</u>	<u>Concern</u>
<b>Public Meeting 3/27/02</b>	A public meeting was held in Monument, OR to discuss the tussock moth epidemic. The meeting was sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and Prairie Wood Products. No records exist of number of public in attendance. Landowners concerned about effects that the infestation on FS land would have on their adjacent properties. Unanimous support from those in attendance for salvage harvest, fuels reduction, and reforestation of the infected stands on FS land.
<b>Ron Yocum (Grant County District Attorney) 4/18/02</b>	Wants to be kept informed as to how the Forest Service will deal with the infestation.
<b>Larry McCoy (Hiker) 5/13/02</b>	Reduce fuels to protect vegetation from fire.
<b>Frances Hendricks (Hunter) 10/11/01</b>	Want the brown dying trees salvaged before they catch fire. "Accident waiting to happen."
<b>Carolyn Peterson (Nearby Landowner) 6/17/02</b>	Owns forested land bordering the Umatilla NF within 5 miles of Bologna. Supports proposal and demands quick action to salvage infested areas, prevent catastrophic fire, stop the spread of the infestation, improve wildlife habitat, and improve forest health. Environmental damage from doing nothing far exceeds any potential environmental damage from salvaging.
<b>Dorothy Hawthorne (Adjacent Landowner) 6/15/02</b>	Owns land bordering the Umatilla NF. Wants immediate action to prevent further spread of infestation to live trees.
<b>Bill and Christy Scheufele (Adjacent Landowner) 6/18/02</b>	Live on land bordering the Umatilla NF, 5 miles from Bologna. DFTM cocoons infest their land. Environmental damage from doing nothing far exceeds any potential environmental damage from salvaging. Fear the risk of fire damaging their property and home.
<b>Top Ranch Corporation (Bill and Christy Scheufele) (Adjacent</b>	Report the spread of DFTM to their property from Umatilla NF land. Have incurred losses of fur trees. Risk of fire in dead stands. Their cattle will not graze

**Landowner) 8/8/01  
(Letter to Regional  
Forester)**

under the infested trees, neither will deer and elk, due to the scent the larvae emit. Spraying to control insects on their land may damage water quality, and is too expensive for them to incur. Want the FS to help.

**Janine E. Smith and 151  
Citizen Petitioners  
(Interested Public)  
8/29/02**

Heavily defoliated trees are a severe threat to forest health (disease, drought, and insects) and a risk of catastrophic fire. Must salvage and thin these stands immediately to preserve the remaining healthy tree stands and protect wildlife habitat.

**State Senator Ted  
Ferrioli (Local State  
Senator) 9/13/02**

Must decrease fuel loads to decrease risk of catastrophic fire, protect riparian function, habitat, soil quality, ecosystem function, and private property.

## **FIELD TRIP 7/26/02**

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*A field trip was held to tour the tussock moth-infested areas in the Rimrock and Bologna Basin areas. The Heppner District Ranger and resource specialists conducted the tour attended by Ed Pearson (Blue Mountain Lumber), Ray Sisson (Kinzua Resources), Fara Ann Currim (Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon), Roy Peterson (Monument neighbor), Bill Scheufele (Monument neighbor), Roger L. McKinley (Prairie City), Jim McKinley (Prairie City), Fred Fleck (Mt. Vernon).*

## **CONCERNS EXPRESSED**

Slow government reaction to the defoliation problem. Bill Scheufele and Roy Peterson expressed concern about potential for fires on FS land spreading to their adjacent properties. Another concern was about build-up and disposal of small-diameter activity fuels generated by the salvage because the cogeneration plant in Heppner was no longer running. Ray Sisson and Ed Pearson expressed a concern about the length of the timber sale contract and the effects that fire restrictions have on the ability to get the wood out before having to shut down. Unanimous support for salvage activities to remove trees while they still had value, provide funds to restore the land, and reduce the risk of high-intensity wildfire.