



AFRC, Western Oregon Counties Secure Major O&C Legal Victories

On November 22, Judge Richard Leon issued major legal decisions impacting the statutorily unique O&C lands in Western Oregon and the recently expanded Cascade Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM). The decisions were a clean sweep for the forest products industry and Western Oregon O&C counties. The decisions deemed President Obama’s last-minute expansion of the CSNM as illegal, and the underlying resource management plans for the 2.2 million acres of O&C lands as invalid and inconsistent with the O&C Act. The legal opinions will likely have profound impacts on the future management of O&C lands, Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, revenues to Western Oregon Counties, and timber harvests available to local mills.

AFRC’s press release is below and relevant decisions are hyperlinked (and worth a read!).

Federal Court Decisions on O&C Lands Deliver Major Victories for Rural Oregon

A federal court today [issued two major decisions](#) relating to the management of Western Oregon O&C lands. In [one decision](#) Judge Richard Leon invalidated President Barack Obama’s proclamation expanding the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument on O&C lands, finding no President has the unilateral authority to override Federal law and an Act of Congress.

Specifically, the court found that the O&C Act mandate to manage the lands for permanent forest production “cannot be rescinded by Presidential Proclamation.”

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Judge Leon also [invalidated](#) the Bureau of Land Management’s 2016 Western Oregon Resource Management plans (RMPs) because the plans fail to meet the clear mandate of the O&C Act. That law requires the BLM to manage the O&C lands, more than two million acres of highly productive forestlands in Western Oregon, on the basis of sustained yield forestry – meaning harvesting a consistent amount in perpetuity that will not exceed harvesting more timber than what is grown by the forest every year. Revenues from the O&C lands are shared with Oregon counties to support essential public services including law enforcement, search and rescue, public health, and youth and senior services.

The American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) brought lawsuits against both the expansion of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument and the 2016 Western Oregon Resource Management plans.

AFRC President Travis Joseph hailed both decisions as important legal victories for rural communities, Oregon workers, and federal forest management precedent moving forward: “Forest policy in the Pacific Northwest is complex. But these important legal decisions are crystal clear. In both cases, Judge Leon rightfully and unambiguously found that the federal O&C Act means exactly what it says, the management plans for these unique Oregon forestlands are illegal, and the expansion of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument exceeds any president’s unilateral authority. These are major wins for the rule of law and rational, science-based forest management.”

AFRC’s General Counsel, Lawson Fite, added: “These decisions reaffirm the O&C Act’s vision of sustainable and responsible management, and that Congress has the final word on management of public lands. We look forward to opening a new chapter in forest management in the Pacific Northwest.”

Washington, D.C. Update

Prior to adjourning for the Thanksgiving recess, Congress passed another Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government through December 20. The funding measure passed the House of Representatives on November 19. The Senate followed suit and delivered it to President Trump on November 21 – just hours before the expiration of the previous CR.

On November 25, House and Senate negotiators reportedly reached agreement on how to divvy up the top-line discretionary domestic spending levels between the dozen appropriations bills that fund the various departments and agencies. While the overall Fiscal Year 2020 discretionary spending level was increased as part of a two-year budget deal last summer, there have been differences between the House and Senate on how to allocate the spending. For example, the House Interior and Environment Appropriations spending bill included a spending level of \$37.2 billion, while the Senate legislation called for a \$35.8 billion spending level.

Appropriators don’t plan to release the compromise allocations until the spending measures are brought up for consideration ahead of the December 20 CR expiration, so it is not yet clear how the Forest Service and BLM will fare. Throughout the appropriations process our industry has been advocating for increased funding for the Forest Service and BLM O&C timber management programs, as well as increases for the Forest Service’s road budget.

Wilderness and Public Lands Bills

On November 20, the House Natural Resources Committee held a markup to consider [10 public lands bills](#), including several Wilderness proposals. The Committee voted to pass [H.R. 2546](#), the *Colorado Wilderness Act of 2019* (Rep. Diane DeGette), and [H.R. 2250](#), the *Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act* (Rep. Jared Huffman). The Colorado legislation would designate over 600,000 acres of Wilderness in 32 different areas across Colorado – including areas outside of Representative DeGette’s district and where the local member of Congress opposes the legislation.

The Northwest California legislation would designate nearly 260,000 acres of Forest Service lands as Wilderness and “Potential” Wilderness areas, 379 miles of new Wild & Scenic River designations, and establish a 730,000-acre “Restoration Area.” Rep. Huffman and other proponents have called the Restoration Area a “net-positive” for logging, saying it prioritizes fuels reduction and promotes stewardship contracting for restoration projects. In reality, red tape and well-intentioned restrictions already limit the Forest Service’s efforts to reduce fuels on fire-prone forests. Rather than streamlining the current process, the Huffman proposal imposes additional restrictions that will only further complicate forest health efforts and activities to support local economies through sustainable timber harvests and other vegetation management projects.

The Committee was also scheduled to consider [H.R. 2642](#), *the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*, but the legislation did not come up for a vote. The “Wild Olympics” proposal would designate approximately 130,000 acres of the Olympic National Forest as Wilderness and “Potential” Wilderness. It would also designate 541 miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers on the Olympic Peninsula – across federal and state lands. An additional 60,000 acres of Forest Service lands outside of the proposed Wilderness areas would fall within the ¼ mile Wild & Scenic River buffers.

In July, AFRC sent a [letter](#) to the Natural Resources Committee to share our industry’s concerns and advocate for changes to the Wild Olympics proposal, including addressing likely impacts to Washington DNR trust lands and removing manageable acres with young and previously managed forest stands and roads. It is our understanding that members of the Committee had planned to offer amendments if the Wild Olympics proposal was brought up for a vote during the November 20 markup.

In early November, AFRC staff and local member companies met with staff from the offices of Washington Senator Patty Murray and Rep. Derek Kilmer as well as the proponents of the legislation to discuss our industry’s concerns and potential changes to the legislation. AFRC staff have been working with our local members to compile additional feedback for the Congressional offices. AFRC appreciates the willingness of the offices to hear our questions and concerns.

Meanwhile, on November 19, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a markup to consider [18 public lands bills and nominations](#), including President Trump’s appointment of Katherine MacGregor to serve as the Deputy Secretary of the Interior which was favorably reported by a vote of 14-6. The Committee also voted in favor of legislation to make the Land and Water Conservation Fund’s (LWCF) \$900 million authorization a mandatory spending level. Just recently LWCF was permanently reauthorized at the \$900 million spending level, but the funding level is set through the appropriations process and is often less than the full authorized level. LWCF is funded by offshore oil and gas revenues and is primarily used to purchase additional federal lands – a practice that is often controversial in states where the federal government is already the dominant landowner.

The Energy and Natural Resources Committee also voted in favor of the Restore Our Parks Act (ROPA), which would direct up to \$1.3 billion annually from unobligated offshore oil and gas revenues towards the deferred maintenance needs of the National Park Service, which currently has an estimated \$12 billion backlog. The Forest Service and BLM also have a growing maintenance backlog, but unfortunately the ROPA currently limits funding to the National Park Service.

The preliminary agenda for the November 19 markup also included Oregon Senator Ron Wyden's Oregon Recreation Enhancement (ORE) Act (S. 1262), but it was not brought up for a vote.

The ORE Act would expand the Wild Rogue Wilderness area in Southwest Oregon, as well as establish new Recreation Areas in the Rogue Canyon and along the Molalla River in Northwest Oregon. AFRC sent a [letter](#) on May 22 to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee outlining concerns with the legislation, including the folly of prohibiting fuels reduction and forest health activities on fire-prone forests in proximity to some of the most at-risk communities in Oregon.

AFRC remains engaged with Committee staff and Senator Wyden's office to identify potential changes to this legislation. Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities also remains active organizing and educating local residents and elected officials about the likely impacts to these communities.

Secure Rural Schools

On November 21, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing to review legislation related to the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program. The SRS program once again expired last year and counties are desperate to extend the program, which has helped offset the loss of county timber revenues following the drastic reductions in timber harvests from federal lands.

The Committee heard legislation introduced by Idaho Senator Mike Crapo, [S. 430](#), to reauthorize SRS for an additional two years – through 2020. The Committee also heard [S. 1643](#), legislation sponsored by Senators Wyden and Crapo to create and capitalize a federal endowment fund as a long-term solution to provide county payments to counties with Forest Service, BLM O&C, and US Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge lands. The proposal, which was first reported in the [December 2018 Newsletter](#), would require \$7 billion to capitalize an endowment fund that would be managed to provide payments to counties. A portion of the funds would be directed towards management projects on nearby federal forests to benefit local economies.

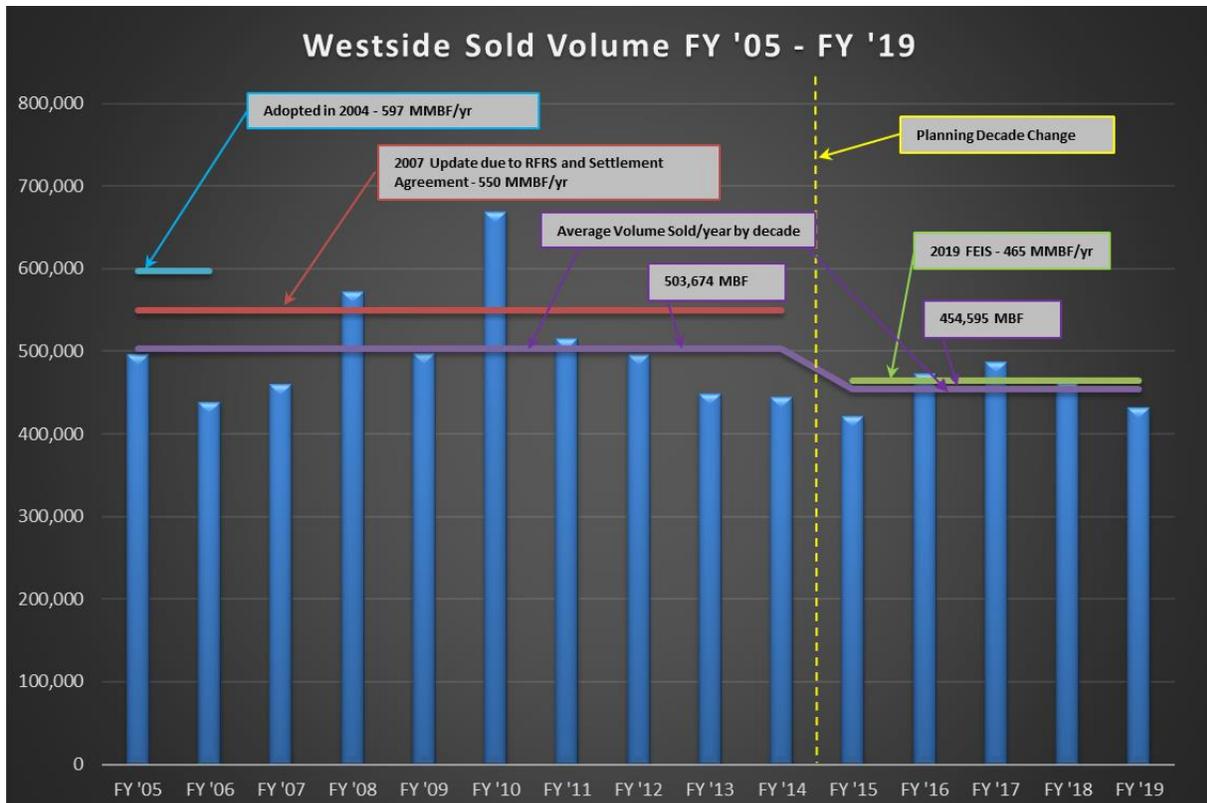
There was general bipartisan support during the hearing for maintaining these funding programs that are so important to providing essential services in counties with large holdings of federal lands. Some Republicans expressed concern about the continued lack of timber harvests and other revenue-generating activities from federal lands and the need to restore economic vitality to these rural communities. Montana Senator Steve Daines spoke about the need to restore active management to federal forests as the best way to provide greater certainty to these communities. /Heath Heikkila

Washington State Department of Natural Resources Update

As we reported in the [October Newsletter](#), DNR's two major planning efforts—the Marbled Murrelet Long Term Conservation Strategy (MM LTCS) and the Sustainable Harvest Calculation (SHC)—are continuing to move forward. On November 14, the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) released the MM LTCS [Record of Decision](#) (ROD), [Biological Opinion](#) (BiOp), [Incidental Take Permit](#) (ITP), [Amendment Findings](#), and [Amendment Transmittal Letter](#). A Special Board of Natural Resources meeting was held on November 20 which further discussed additional background information on the MM LTCS and SHC, but specific details directly related to the BiOp, ROD, or ITP were not provided to the Board.

It is anticipated the Board will vote at its December 3 meeting on whether to accept the Incidental Take Permit and the HCP Amendment. This vote is despite requests from a variety of stakeholders requesting a delay. DNR staff has yet to provide clear and transparent economic impact data related to revenue impacts to Junior Taxing Districts. The Washington State Legislature included language in last year's Operating Budget directing DNR to prepare and disclose these impacts. At the November 5 Board of Natural Resources meeting, the Board requested staff to provide economic impact data related to age class deferrals versus the “operable acres” changes DNR has so far reported. It is expected the Board will receive this data at the December 3 meeting. The economic impacts from metering of habitat (deferral for the first decade of released for harvest “high-quality habitat”) are still unclear. The staff mentioned briefly during the November 5 meeting that in the case of Clallam Fire District #5 the impact due to age class could be as high as a 47% decrease in annual revenue.

The Board is also expected to vote on adopting a new Sustainable Harvest Calculation for western Washington covering the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 to 2024 planning decade. Alternative 6 is the Board's likely selection and will set the FY15-24 target at an annual average of 465 MMBF. This will include 382 million board feet (MMBF) of arrearage volume from the FY05-14 planning decade. By subtracting out the arrearage number, the western Washington SHC target will fall from 550 MMBF/year last decade to 427 MMBF this decade. Based on DNR numbers, it is anticipated that in 4.5 years, this target will further fall to 419 MMBF/year for FY25-34. In the first five years of the current decade, DNR averaged selling just under 455 MMBF/year.



In a related matter, the [DNR “Solutions Table”](#) created by [ESHB 2285](#), continues to meet to discuss the various parameters outlined in the bill. Progress continues to be slow on identifying tools to mitigate for revenue, volume, and jobs impacts due to the MM LTCS as directed in the bill. It appears that DNR is now viewing the Solutions Table as a venue to first identify additional voluntary conservation measures for the Marbled Murrelet on DNR managed trust lands. ESHB 2285 lists identifying voluntary incentive-based conservation opportunities as a potential outcome of the Solutions Table work. The [draft framework proposal](#) distributed on October 28, describes voluntarily conserving the acres identified in the MM LTCS Alternative G (an additional 38,000 acres over Alternative H) and the need to compensate beneficiaries for further loss of revenue upfront. However, mitigating for the further loss of timber volume and jobs from these voluntary deferrals shows a goal of 80% replacement to what is lost from the voluntary deferrals. Additionally, DNR sees the goals of mitigating the economic impacts of the MM LTCS as “a policy choice, not an obligation.” It should be noted that the draft framework document is a product of DNR and not the Solutions Table as a whole. Solutions Table members also participated in a conference call on November 15 with FWS representatives to discuss topics related to marbled murrelet management, opportunities to enhance/accelerate habitat development, and marine factors impacting the species.

AFRC staff continues to work with DNR, members of the Legislature, Beneficiaries, and other interested stakeholders to better understand the impacts of both the MM LTCS and SHC on rural communities who depend on this revenue as well as the purchasing community and the jobs they provide in many of the impacted communities. /Matt Comisky, Heath Heikkila

Ninth Circuit Agrees that Seiad-Horse Project Is In the Public Interest

On November 22, the Ninth Circuit issued a [memorandum](#) putting its emphatic stamp of approval on the turnaround in the Seiad-Horse litigation, from an initial injunction in January to a lift of the injunction in May ([June Newsletter](#)). The three-judge panel ruled that “the district court failed to consider all mandatory factors before issuing the injunction and that the court’s stay order engaged in the correct analysis.”

Moreover, the Ninth Circuit found the district court’s initial ruling relied solely on the factors of legal success and potential irreparable harm, concluding as a matter of course that the balance of equities favored the plaintiffs and that enjoining the project was in the public interest. In the Ninth Circuit’s view, “This was an abuse of discretion,” and “ignored” the Supreme Court’s “command” that courts “should pay particular regard for the public consequences in employing the extraordinary remedy of injunction.”

The court agreed with the latter stay order which “rested primarily on the fire prevention/mitigation benefits of the project that were in the public interest and were permanently threatened by the preliminary injunction.” In short, the Ninth Circuit agreed that this post-fire recovery project was appropriately designed to reduce the risk of future fire and facilitate reforestation. This ruling cements a victory for a vision of forest management that uses harvests strategically to reduce risks, accelerates the development of desired conditions, and supports rural communities.

AFRC thanks Julie Weis of Haglund Kelley LLP for her outstanding work on this case, including [argument](#) to the Ninth Circuit. We also appreciate the work of the Forest Service, the Department of Justice, and Siskiyou County, California, which filed an *amicus* brief highlighting the importance of the project to the community. */Lawson Fite*

Federal Timber Purchasers Committee Meeting

Last month the Federal Timber Purchasers Committee (FTPC) met in Alexandria, Louisiana with Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management leadership from around the country. The committee meets with agency personnel twice a year to discuss issues pertinent to the timber sale program. The meeting covered topics such as timber sale appraisals, updates to Forest Service manuals and handbooks, and product utilization standards.

The Forest Service had initially established a timber target of 3.7 billion board feet (BBF) for Fiscal Year 2019. That level was assigned to the Regions and then reduced by the Chief of the Forest Service in May to 3.3 BBF for reasons including, but not limited to, the government shutdown, the impact of not receiving the 2018 fire repayment, and delays in hiring new staff. However, the agency target, assigned by the Department of Agriculture, remained at 3.7 BBF. The Regions sold 3.26 BBF, attaining 99% of the adjusted target. The agency as a whole attained 88% of its assigned target. Forest Service leadership emphasized the need to grow in 2020 and anticipates establishing a timber target of 3.7 BBF with a goal of hitting 4.0 BBF in 2021.

These ambitions for growth will likely be augmented by ongoing Forest Service efforts including Forest Products Modernization (FPM), Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM), and Shared Stewardship. Through FPM the Forest Service is developing a “market based” approach to timber sale appraisals that will aim to improve alignment between local market conditions and appraisal metrics. There was general agreement and recognition among all participants that demand for federal timber products remains high and that improvements to the agency’s appraisal practices will help ensure that all economical sales with useful products will sell. Coupled with this effort were recommendations that Regions and Forests improve their access to up-to-date information on product utilization specifications to ensure alignment with local industry standards. Revisions and updates to Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks are ongoing and solicitation for public comment is anticipated to begin this calendar year. Updates on items ranging from timber cruising to stewardship contracting will be rolled out in batches over a six-month period.

Efforts to supplement the agency’s capacity for growth through outside partnerships, generally referred to as Shared Stewardship, were recognized as an integral component of expanding active management. There are currently 10 Shared Stewardship Agreements signed across the country and an additional 10 in progress. Partnering with entities such as State governments and Tribes continues to be a national priority. Forest Service leadership emphasized not just the importance of establishing these agreements but also developing clear metrics that can be used to gauge their effectiveness to further the agency’s mission.

In addition to the meetings, a field trip was held to look at actively managed land on the Kisatchie National Forest and lands managed by Hancock illustrating modernization of Forest Service practices and advancements in timber harvesting technology respectively. The Kisatchie is actively utilizing Designation by Prescription (DxP) to efficiently meet desired end results. This method of tree designation takes advantage of contractor skills to treat any forest stand to meet a desired outcome without the burden of painting thousands of individual trees. On Hancock’s land, representatives from John Deere and Thomas Johnson Logging displayed technological advances in logging equipment that is increasing safety and production in southern pine harvest stands. Forest Service and industry leadership both recognized the need to improve the lines of communication, internally and externally, to ensure that innovations and efficiencies are being fully utilized at a large scale. */Andy Geissler*

Undersecretary Hubbard Visits Colville

On November 25, Undersecretary of Agriculture Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief of the Forest Service Chris French and Rep. Cathy McMorris Rogers attended an open house hosted by the Colville National Forest. Forest Supervisor Rodney Smoldon held the event to thank the Forest’s partners for their work on the revised Colville Forest Plan. The new Forest Plan went into effect on November 20, and is one of only a handful of Forest Plans that have been successfully implemented in recent years.

Undersecretary Hubbard and Chris French also toured the A-Z project. This unique project which had strong support from Rep. McMorris Rogers, was the first of its kind where the purchaser of the contract had to do the NEPA, project design, sale layout and ultimately the operation with only limited oversight by the Forest Service. Undersecretary Hubbard recognized

Rodney and the Forest for their creative efforts for increasing the pace and scale of management on the Forest. In addition to the A-Z project, the Forest has utilized other tools such as the Good Neighbor Authority and the Farm Bill CE to become a national leader in forest restoration and timber production. / *Tom Partin*



Firefighters, Forest Service Join AFRC to Tour Tecuya Project

Last month, AFRC, the California Forestry Association and Associated California Loggers moved to intervene in support of the Tecuya Ridge Shaded Fuelbreak Project, located on the Los Padres National Forest in southern Kern County, California. The project consists of approximately 1,626 acres of thinning treatment, including the installation of a shaded fuelbreak in high risk priority areas. To expedite treatment, the Forest authorized the use of the “timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement” categorical exclusion (CE). ([October Newsletter](#)).

The project is located on Tecuya Mountain, directly above Frazier Park just 70 miles from downtown Los Angeles, and just 40 miles from some of the city’s largest suburbs. Many Southern California communities are aggressively managing vegetation to reduce wildfire risks, yet high-profile forest management efforts in this region are uncommon. As the Los Padres prepared to implement the project, opponents worked to tie it to the Trump Administration’s efforts to increase management activities on National Forests, which helped generate negative news coverage that did not accurately describe the project’s goals.

On November 13, AFRC organized a field tour of the project to educate local residents and the media on the importance of active forest management and the need for the shaded fuelbreak. Attending the tour were representatives of the Kern County Fire Department, Los Padres District Forester Greg Thompson, Mt. Pinos District Ranger Adam Bromley, a representative of a local homeowners’ association, a reporter from the *Mountain Enterprise* newspaper, and AFRC member representatives John Quidachay of Associated California Loggers and Darren Mahr of Sierra Forest Products.

Greg Thompson discussed how the project was carefully designed to improve the health of the forests while reducing the risks of catastrophic wildfire. Thompson showed how years of drought and insect infestations have caused significant tree mortality in the area, described how the purpose of the project is to “keep these forests green,” and how thinning stands on the ridge would allow more trees to survive and grow larger. Kern County firefighters discussed how the shaded fuelbreak would give firefighters a chance to safely access and attack a fire before it reaches nearby homes.



Lawson Fite, AFRC General Counsel, addressed AFRC’s interest in the project and why intervening in the case was important for defending the legal use of the CE to expedite treatment. Jerry Jensen, AFRC Consultant and Darren Mahr both offered their forestry knowledge and expertise, while Greg Thompson and Adam Bromley explained why the use of the CE was justified when the appropriate analyses had been conducted.

The field tour provided a positive narrative around the Tecuya Ridge Shaded Fuelbreak, and represented one small step toward educating Southern Californians on the importance of active forest management for community protection and forest health. *Nick Smith*

Idaho Tussock Moth Mitigation

Last month, AFRC, the Boise National Forest, and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) conducted a field trip to the High Forks GNA and Tripod GNA sale areas to review tussock moth mortality. Forest Service and IDL staff have intensively focused harvest efforts to recover grand fir before the wood loses its value.

The High Valley Integrated Restoration Project EA was signed in September 2016. The High Forks timber sale planning and layout was completed in 2017 and 2018 and the sale was purchased in February 2019.





The tussock moth outbreak and subsequent defoliation became severe in 2018 and 2019. In an aggressive response to the epidemic and defoliation, the Forest Service updated the silviculture prescription to capture the wood value and to mitigate the potential damage in residual stands. Grand fir of any diameter and Douglas-fir with

diameters less than 20 inches dbh are being removed if defoliation is greater than 80 percent. Douglas-fir greater than 20 inches dbh are being removed when defoliation reaches 90 percent or more. Efforts to mitigate tussock moth damage will potentially increase the removed volume 20 to 30 percent. These mitigation efforts are being further enhanced by forest management on adjacent private lands.

The Tripod Project CE, totaling 1,730 commercial acres, was signed on October 15 and was driven by heavy tussock moth defoliation damage during 2018 and 2019. The Forest is preparing a timber sale in the worst tussock moth defoliation areas that will ideally be offered in the first quarter of FY20. Sales with less damage will be offered in the fourth quarter of FY20.



The Forest Service and IDL have prioritized this area for treatment and are implementing it as rapidly as possible. The agencies are working together to streamline the project and capture as much value as possible while promoting the health and resilience of the residual stands in the area. The Idaho – Forest Service GNA partnerships continue to be progressive, aggressive and leaders in the West. *Irene Jerome*

West Coast Fisher Proposed for Listing

On November 7, the FWS [proposed to list the West Coast distinct population segment of the fisher](#) as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Fishers are small mammals that live in low- to mid-elevation forests and utilize snags, hollow trees, and cavities in trees for rearing their young and for security. The fisher has five populations: two small populations in Northern California-Southwestern Oregon and the Southern Sierra Nevada; and three reintroduced populations in the Northern Sierra Nevada, Southern Oregon Cascades, and the Olympic Peninsula.

FWS initially proposed to list the fisher in 2014 but later withdrew that proposal in April 2016. Several environmental groups challenged FWS's withdrawal, arguing that it was arbitrary and capricious as to three stressors on the species—toxicants, small population size, and wildfires. ([October 2016 Newsletter](#)). AFRC and several other associations intervened as a defendant in the challenge to the Service's 2016 withdrawal decision. Judge Alsup of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, vacated FWS's withdrawal due to concerns about threats from toxicant like anticoagulant rodenticides and the interplay between stressors and small and/or isolated populations. The court ordered the agency to reconsider listing the species.

FWS has now proposed listing the West Coast population of the fisher as a threatened species. FWS is also proposing a concurrent rule under section 4(d) of the ESA to authorize some exceptions to the “take” prohibition. The proposal includes specific exceptions from the “take” prohibition to allow certain forest management activities “for the purposes of reducing the risk or severity of wildfires,” activities “pursuant to an approved fisher conservation plan or strategy,” and activities that “are consistent with the conservation needs of the fisher but are not specifically designed as fisher conservation plans or strategies.”

The proposed listing comes after massive cooperative conservation efforts have been undertaken for the benefit of the fisher. For example, a recent conservation agreement was entered into between five timber companies—Green Diamond, Weyerhaeuser, Roseburg, Lone Rock, and Hancock—and the state of Oregon to protect the fisher on nearly 2 million acres of forestland. These agreements put on-the-ground conservation measures in place while allowing timber companies’ incidental “take” of the fisher. Through that agreement, the above-mentioned timber companies have agreed to contribute \$90,000 over the first three years to fund fisher research and monitoring.

Comments on the proposed listing are currently due on December 7. AFRC, and other groups, have requested that FWS extend the comment period by 90 days. /Sara Ghafouri

Save the Date! Join us at Skamania Lodge in April to Celebrate 20 Years of Advocacy

