# Siuslaw National Forest Stewardship Contracting Multiparty Monitoring Report Fiscal Year 2010



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## **Executive Summary**

## **Introduction and Purpose**

This Multiparty Monitoring Report for Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10), documents and analyzes the biophysical accomplishments, economic impacts and stewardship monitoring that was conducted on the Siuslaw National Forest (SNF) and non-federal property with funds generated through stewardship timber sales, through a process called stewardship contracting. Stewardship contracting is a method for the United States Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to contribute to the economic viability of rural communities while restoring and maintaining healthy forest ecosystems, by providing a continuing source of employment and local income.

## Methodology

To determine the biophysical and economic impacts of stewardship contracting, data were analyzed from Siuslaw National Forest stewardship contracts, Forest Service retained receipts projects, and projects conducted on private and non-federal lands, commonly referred to as Wyden projects. These data were provided by the Siuslaw National Forest and Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development (Cascade Pacific RC&D). In addition, field work was conducted to collect and analyze vegetative data from stewardship timber sales to determine if silvicultural prescriptions were being achieved.

To determine the direct economic and employment impacts of stewardship contracting during FY10, the SNF and Integrated Resource Management (IRM) derived estimated worker production rates, which were combined with federal wage determination rates to determine estimated full time equivalent (FTE) jobs. In addition, IRM conducted phone and email interviews with contractors to determine the county of origin of contractors involved in stewardship contracting. Analysis of data provided estimates of the overall economic impact that stewardship contracting provides to the local community.

As a result of all stewardship contracting projects completed on the SNF during FY10, there was a total of 8.976 million board feet (MMBF) of timber removed from stewardship timber sales, \$229,317spent on retained receipts projects and \$84,135 spent on Wyden projects. The economic impact of these projects was over 105.63 FTE jobs created, which had an average wage of \$23.88 per hour. This resulted in \$5,085,417 earned by contractors and subcontractors and over \$457,688 paid in state taxes (based on a 9% state income tax assessment).

#### **Section One: Introduction**

Integrated Resource Management, a forestry consulting firm headquartered in Philomath Oregon, was hired by Cascade Pacific RC&D to compile, analyze, and summarize the biophysical and socioeconomic impacts of projects completed with stewardship funds during FY10. This report provides a general summary of these data. In addition, as part of this project, a custom Microsoft Access database was created to facilitate the compilation of all data. The database is called the *Siuslaw Monitoring Project (SMP) FY10 Database*. It provides the user with a quick and easy way to query data relating to stewardship contracting. The database is available for download at: http://www.cascadepacificstewardship.org/resources.html

#### **About Stewardship Contracting**

Stewardship contracting is an innovative method for managing forests and watersheds that is rooted in collaboration and adaptive management. Stewardship contracting is a suite of authorities or contracting tools that are intended to help the agencies meet land management objectives and rural community needs. It is the blending of land management and rural community development that makes stewardship contracting unique. The guiding regulations from the Forest Service encourage strong collaboration between the federal agencies and local and regional partners and interests.

In 2003, Congress enacted legislation enabling the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to use stewardship contracting to accomplish land management. Specific mechanisms authorized by the legislation include:

- Exchange of goods for services: Contractors can be paid in goods—with the value of any timber
  or other forest products removed by the contractor used to offset what the agency owes the
  contractor for services performed, as written in 16 U.S.C. 2104 Note (Revised February 28, 2003
  to reflect Sec. 323 of H.J. Res. 2 as enrolled)
- Receipt retention: Excess receipts from the sale of timber or other forest products removed can be kept and used by the agency, rather than being deposited in the U.S. Treasury.
- Best-value contracting: Contracts must be awarded on the basis of achieving best value to the government. A variety of criteria, in addition to price, can be used in making the award determination.
- End-results contracting: The agency determines the end result desired for the work, but the contractor has flexibility to propose the methods to be used, including, in some instances, which individual trees to cut.
- *Multi-year contracts*: Service contracts can be held for up to 10 years, instead of the current 5 year maximum.

#### Origins

The Northwest Forest Plan designated much of the forested land of the SNF as late successional reserve (LSR). Late Successional Reserves are managed to provide habitat for threatened and endangered species. The SNF uses stewardship contracting as a means to address the health of the land within or adjacent to the SNF. Salmon habitat enhancement and restoration is high priority in the basin. Given that much of the lands with the highest habitat potential for salmonids are on private land, there is a natural strategic partnership between the National Forest , watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and other organizations that promote conservation on private lands. The local partners are organized into four stewardship groups, the Alsea, Hebo, Marys Peak and Siuslaw Stewardship Groups.

# About the Stewardship Groups

The Alsea, Hebo, Marys Peak and Siuslaw Stewardship Groups are each a collection of local and regional organizations and individuals that collaborate with the SNF on the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the stewardship projects on land within or adjacent to the SNF. Each group has formed its own charter and meets monthly to discuss projects within its area. Group participants include: federal and state agencies, landowners, conservation organizations, local governments, timber companies, tribes, and others.

The stewardship groups dedicate much of their attention to the use of the Coast Range Stewardship Fund, a subset of the receipts retained from stewardship contracts that can be utilized by landowners through non-governmental organizations for restoration projects on non-federal lands that benefit the National Forest.

As most readers who are familiar with the *FY09 Multiparty Monitoring Report* will notice, the content and format of the FY10 report is very similar. This is due to the support received from the previous year's report and an effort to be consistent for the public. Below is a brief list detailing the major changes to the *FY10 Multiparty Monitoring Report*.

- Increased quantity of stand exam/photo point plots: During the FY10 field season, there were a
  total 39 stand exam/photo point plots installed across six harvest units. The increased number
  of plots resulted from shifting available funds from stewardship field trips, in order to provide
  additional tracking of pre and post-harvest conditions of stewardship timber sales.
- New Stewardship Group: In November of 2011, the Hebo Stewardship Group submitted its draft charter, which will soon allow them to become the most recent addition to stewardship contracting in Western Oregon. The proposed stewardship area is composed of approximately 369,632 acres with a wide range of ownerships as seen in Table 1 below. The Hebo Ranger District currently has three planning efforts underway that could utilize stewardship contracting for implementation of Northwest Forest Plan objectives.

Table 1 – Hebo Stewardship Group Ownership

Owner	Acres	Percent of Area
Private	153,825	42
USFS	146,492	40
BLM	41,487	11
State of Oregon	14,504	4
Tribal	9,928	3
County	2,151	>1
US FWS	1,245	>1
Total Acres	369,632	

#### **Section Three: Methods**

In order to calculate the direct socioeconomic impacts of stewardship contracting on the SNF for FY10, IRM worked with the SNF staff to develop estimated worker production rates. These rates were multiplied by federal wage determination rates, which allowed IRM to derive estimated FTE jobs, worker income and state income tax information. Through data provided by Cascade Pacific RC&D and the SNF, IRM analyzed data pertaining to contractors and their locations that performed work on stewardship contracting projects. With these data gathered, IRM was able to break down estimated wages, FTE jobs, total income and state tax revenue generated by county, for all FY10 SNF stewardship contracts, Forest Service retained receipts projects and Wyden projects.

#### Microsoft Access Database

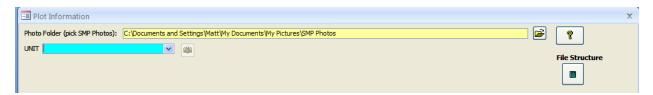
As previously discussed, this paper contains a summary of these biophysical, economic and monitoring data that were completed and analyzed during FY10. These data in their entirety resides in the *SMP FY10 Database*, which is available for download at:

http://www.cascadepacificstewardship.org/resources.html. Below are directions for downloading and using the database.

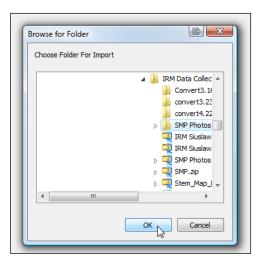
#### **Deploying the Siuslaw Monitoring Project FY10**

- 1. Download Siuslaw Monitoring Project FY10.
- 2. Extract to a folder on your computer.
- 3. The result will be three .mdb files (Access Databases) and a folder called SMP Photos.
  - a. SMP Biophysical Accomplishments.mdb
  - b. SMP Siuslaw Monitoring Project.mdb
  - c. SMP Economic Analysis.mdb
  - d. SMP Photos folder
- 4. The Siuslaw Monitoring Project.mdb database has a link to the SMP Photos.

The Biophysical Accomplishments.mdb and SMP Economic Analysis.mdb files are stand alone Access databases that do not require linking to any other files. The Siuslaw Monitoring Project.mdb database, however, does link to the SMP Photos folder. By default it is programmed to assume that the SMP Photos folder is in the same location as the Siuslaw Monitoring Project.mdb file. If you move either the .mdb file or the SMP Photos folder to a new location, you will need to link the photos to the database by clicking on the folder icon in the Plot Information form and navigating to the SMP Photos folder (see image below):



Click on the folder, which will bring up the Browse for Folder dialog:



Select the SMP Photos folder and click OK.

Once you have the database and photo point picture files saved properly, you will be able to browse through these stewardship data from the current fiscal year as well as previous years. This database allows the user to generate reports detailing these biophysical, economic and monitoring data.

Example: If you wanted to view these monitoring data that are displayed in section six of this report, follow the steps below:

- 1. Open the SMP FY10 Database.
- 2. Select the "Stewardship Monitoring" tab.
- 3. Click the dropdown to the right of the "Unit" tab and select "2010 Camp Thin Unit: 22 (2plots)".
- 4. In the top left salmon colored box, click the "2" under the plot column.
- 5. If you would like to view the photo points that were taken at this plot, click the camera icon that is located to the right of the "2010 Camp Thin Unit: 22 (2plots)" tab.

These data contained within the biophysical and economic sections work similarly. For each of these, there are dropdown tabs that let you select various projects or other search categories.

#### **Definitions**

Due to the nature of this paper, some of the terms used to describe the various aspects of stewardship contracting may be unfamiliar to the general public. For this reason, we have provided the following definitions:

#### **General Definitions**

**Biophysical Accomplishments:** Land and water management practices that help preserve natural resources or ecosystems.

**Integrated Resource Contract:** An agreement used in stewardship contracting timber sales, which allows agencies to exchange goods for services when the cost of the services exceeds the value of the timber harvested.

Late Successional Reserve (LSR): This phrase became widely used in 1994, when the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) established LSRs on 30 percent of the federal land area within the range of the northern spotted owl (United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and United States Department of Interior (USDI) 1994). The primary objectives for the LSR land allocation are to "protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional and old-growth forest related species including the northern spotted owl (USDA and USDI 1994)."

**Retained Receipts Projects:** Refers to service contracts on land managed by the Forest Service using funds generated from stewardship contracts. These funds may not be used for Forest Service salaries, overhead administrative costs or indirect costs; neither may they be used for project planning or analysis. This authority was granted by amendment number 2409.19-2008-7, found in the Forest Service Handbook FSH 2409.19 – Renewable Resources Handbook, chapter 60 Stewardship Contracting, effective October 21, 2008.

**Seral Forage Creation:** Development of specific plant communities which are beneficial to particular animal species. Typical projects would consist of planting various grass and forbs species that would provide additional food sources for deer and elk.

**Sidecast Pullback:** The process of moving soil and road material from the downhill side of a gravel road to the uphill side for the purpose of road decommissioning.

**Stewardship Contracts:** Refers to contracts on land managed by the Forest Service using an Integrated Resource Timber Contract or an Integrated Resource Service Contract. These contracts allow the Forest Service to bundle several contracts into one, to treat a landscape, trade goods for services, use multi-year and one year contracts and agreements up to 10 years, and use best value contracting to evaluate contractors' proposals. These authorities were passed under section 323 of Public 108-7 under the omnibus Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2003, on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

**Wyden Projects:** Refers to projects on private and non-federal lands that use stewardship funds. The Wyden Amendment (Public Law 109-54, Section 434) passed on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 authorizes the Forest Service to provide funds for projects on private and non-federal lands that benefit the National Forest.

#### **Economic Definitions**

**Direct Jobs:** Includes all industry, industry-contracted and government employees involved in: protection of the commercial forest resource, harvesting, reforestation and tending, mill processing/manufacturing, administration, etc.

**Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs:** Method of calculating amount of jobs created. The assumption is that there are 2,016 work hours in a year (8 hours a day, 21 work days a month, 12 months a year).

*Indirect Jobs:* Includes all those involved in the provision of goods and services necessary to support the ongoing operations of the industry, and its direct employees as defined above, such as: equipment and part suppliers, electrical power, fuel and chemical suppliers, equipment maintenance shops, etc.

*Induced Jobs:* All those involved in the provision of goods and services purchased by those directly and indirectly employed and contracted by the industry.

**Million Board Feet (MMBF):** An acronym used to abbreviate One Thousand Thousand Board Feet or Million Board Feet of timber. This is a unit of measure of harvested timber.

**Socioeconomic:** A phrase used to discuss the combination of social and economic factors (e.g. a salary of a specific job).

# **Section Four: Biophysical Accomplishments**

#### Summary of Biophysical Accomplishments in FY10

The three types of biophysical accomplishments that are summarized in this section are: stewardship contracts, retained receipts projects and Wyden projects, which were completed during FY10 on or near the SNF.

## Forest Service Stewardship Contracts

Stewardship contracting was developed as a method to achieve land management goals for National Forest System lands while meeting local and rural community needs. Implementation activity occurred on nine previously awarded stewardship contracts on the SNF during FY10. Four of these contracts were held by Georgia Pacific and five were held by the Swanson Group. There was a total of 8.976 MMBF of timber removed from the SNF during FY10 from the combined nine stewardship contracts.

The major biophysical accomplishments achieved through stewardship contracts across the nine stewardship timber sales during FY10 were as follows:

- 499 acres of late successional reserve enhancement (commercial thinning)
- 200 cubic yards of sidecast pullback
- 77 acres of noxious weed control
- 40 mature snags created
- 92 acres of upland site prep and under planting

#### Forest Service Retained Receipts Projects

Forest Service retained receipts, are funds that are received from the sale of forest products removed under a stewardship contract. Some of these funds are retained by the agency and used to pay for resource restoration, maintenance and enhancement projects on the National Forest. During FY10 there were 13 active retained receipts projects, which cost a total of \$229,317. The major biophysical accomplishments include:

- 22 acres of riparian restoration
- .82 miles of road repair for water quality
- 1 enclosure built to protect riparian vegetation
- 500 acres of snowy plover habitat restoration/protection
- 19 acres of Oregon Silverspot Butterfly habitat restoration
- 12 acres of meadow maintenance
- 10,178 pounds of trash removed to preserve water quality
- 15 road closures maintained

#### Wyden Projects

The Wyden Authority authorizes the USFS to expend funds (including retained receipts) on resource restoration and enhancement projects on non-federal lands as long as the projects provides resource benefits to National Forest System lands within the watershed. Wyden projects within the vicinity of the SNF are accomplished through cooperative agreements and public assistance grants. Agreements may be with governmental, private and nonprofit entities, to protect, restore or enhance natural resources. There was a total of \$84,135 of retained receipts from stewardship contracts awarded to fund the 10 active Wyden projects in FY10. Additionally, several other projects were ongoing multi-year projects initially awarded in previous fiscal years. Due to the method of reporting, it was difficult to separate out the bio-physical accomplishments of FY10 versus previous years of multi-year contracts. The cumulative accomplishments of these multi-year contracts are greater than:

- 10,000 native trees planted
- 25,500 trees and plants distributed
- 19.5 miles of road treated for scotch broom
- 1.6 miles of riparian/stream restoration
- 44.9 acres of knotweed control
- 145 acres of forest restoration
- .39 miles of wildlife friendly fence constructed
- 311 snags created
- Mastication of tree tops and branches over 240 acres

## **Section Five: Economic Impacts**

## Overview of all Fiscal Year 2010 Stewardship Contracting

This section provides an overview of the methods used to determine the economic impacts of stewardship contracting and the results of the economic analysis. There were slight variations in data analysis between the three categories of stewardship contracting (Forest Service stewardship contracts, Forest Service retained receipts and Wyden projects), which will be explained in detail below.

Due to difficulty in obtaining socioeconomic data from contractors during stewardship monitoring efforts prior to FY2008, the USFS and IRM decided to use worker production estimates and federal wage determination rates to derive FTE jobs, average wages, net incomes and state tax revenue (based on a 9% state income tax assessment). These estimates were then analyzed based upon contractor location, which allowed IRM to estimate socioeconomic data at a county level. These data provided within this section represents a combination of direct, indirect and induced employment figures. The LSR thinning treatments, which are the tree harvest portion of the stewardship contracts, represents direct, indirect and induced employment figures. The associated restorative activities, retained receipts and Wyden projects are strictly based upon direct employment figures. A full list of worker production rates and federal wage determination rates used in this report is readily available in report format through the use of the *SMP Database FY10*, which can be downloaded at Cascade Pacific RC&D's website.

# Forest Service Stewardship Contracts

There were a total of nine stewardship contracts being conducted in FY10. Georgia Pacific and the Swanson Group purchased a total of 8.976 MMBF of commercial timber through stewardship timber sales during this time period.

Beginning in FY08, a new method was derived to determine the socioeconomic impacts of stewardship contracting through a combination of two methodologies.

For the stewardship timber sales portion of the stewardship contracts, IRM used a multiplier to determine the number of direct, indirect, and induced jobs created. According to Gary Lettman, a forest economist with the Oregon Department of Forestry, 11.4 direct, indirect and induced FTE jobs are created for every one million board feet (MMBF) of timber harvested. Of these, there is one logging job for every 5.1 mill jobs.

To determine the socioeconomic impacts of the associated restorative activities that were part of these stewardship contracts, IRM used the following methodology:

Production rates for individual tasks were estimated. These estimates were based upon the
expert knowledge of staff at the SNF and IRM. For example, we estimated a production rate of
17 young tree snags were created per 8 hour day for the snag creation conducted on the
contracts. Total quantities for each task were divided by these estimated production rates to

determine FTE jobs.

Total payroll was calculated by multiplying the number of FTE jobs by the appropriate wage determination rates, which contractors are required to pay their workers as required by the McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act of 1965. This bill, amended on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1976 as Public Law 94-480, requires contractors and subcontractors performing services on prime contracts in excess of \$2,500 to pay service employees in various classes no less than wage rates and fringe benefits found prevailing in the locality.

The estimated production rates along with the wage determination rates (as found on <a href="www.wdol.gov/">www.wdol.gov/</a>, a federal wage determination website) are contained within the SMP FY10 Database and available in report format through the use of the database. Table 2 displays a subset of these economic data broken down by county between the six stewardship timber sales as a whole.

Table 2 – FY10 Forest Service Stewardship Timber Sale Contracts – Economic Data

County	Person Hours	\$ Earned	FTE	Avg.	State Taxes Paid
	Worked		Jobs	Wage	
Benton, OR	22,912	\$488,859	11.37	\$21.34	\$43,997
Coos, OR	22,118	\$552,950	10.97	\$25.00	\$49,765
Douglas, OR	2,387	\$47,748	1.18	\$20.00	\$4,297
Lane, OR	157,752	\$3,832,322	78.25	\$24.29	\$344,909
Lincoln, OR	1,693	\$42,314	0.84	\$25.00	\$3,808
Marion, OR	91	\$2,676	0.05	\$29.27	\$241
Total Value	206,953	\$4,966,869	102.66	\$24.00	\$447,017

#### Forest Service Retained Receipts Projects

During FY10, there were a total of 13 projects active on SNF property, funded with income retained from stewardship contracts. To determine the socioeconomic impacts for these activities, we used the same methodology as we did for the associated restorative activities of the stewardship contracts, as outlined above. Table 3 displays a subset of these economic data broken down by county for the seven retained receipts projects completed on SNF property as a whole.

Table 3 – FY10 Forest Retained Receipts Projects – Economic Data

County	Person Hours	\$ Earned	FTE	Avg.	State Taxes Paid
	Worked		Jobs	Wage	
Lane, OR	846	\$15,972	0.42	\$18.88	\$1,438
Lincoln, OR	412	\$7,628	0.20	\$18.52	\$687
Marion, OR	448	\$8,333	0.22	\$18.59	\$750
Multnomah, OR	799	\$20,100	0.40	\$25.15	\$1,809
Total Value	2,505	<i>\$52,033</i>	1.24	\$20.77	\$4,684

#### Wyden Projects

As stated in the biophysical accomplishments section, due to the method of reporting, IRM was unable to accurately separate the biophysical accomplishments of FY10 from that of the total for the multi-year Wyden projects. Although the biophysical accomplishments of Wyden projects reflect multi-year projects in their entirety, these economic data represent FY10 alone. To determine the socioeconomic impacts for these activities, we used the same methodology as we did for the associated restorative activities of the stewardship contracts and retained receipts projects, as outlined above. Table 4 displays a subset of these economic broken down by county for the 10 Wyden projects worked on during FY10.

Table 4 – FY10 Wyden Projects – Economic Data

County	Person Hours	\$ Earned	FTE	Avg.	State Taxes Paid
	Worked		Jobs	Wage	
Benton, OR	410	\$7,463	0.20	\$18.22	\$672
Lane, OR	1523	\$34,535	0.76	\$22.68	\$3,108
Lincoln, OR	1565	\$24,516	0.78	\$15.66	\$2,206
Total Value	3,498	\$66,514	1.74	\$19.02	\$5,986

#### Summary of Economic Impacts Combined Across All Three Project Types for FY10

Table 5 summarizes these economic data broken down by county for all projects completed with stewardship funds during FY10.

Table 5 – Economic Data for all FY10 Projects

County	Person Hours	\$ Earned	FTE	Avg.	State Taxes Paid
	Worked		Jobs	Wage	
Benton, OR	23,322	\$496,322	11.57	\$21.28	\$44,669
Coos, OR	22,118	\$552,950	10.97	\$25.00	\$49,765
Douglas, OR	2,387	\$47,748	1.18	\$20.00	\$4,297
Lane, OR	160,121	\$3,882,830	79.43	\$24.25	\$349,455
Lincoln, OR	3,670	\$74,459	1.82	\$20.29	\$6,701
Marion, OR	540	\$11,009	0.27	\$20.40	\$991
Multnomah, OR	799	\$20,100	0.40	\$25.15	\$1,809
Total Value	212,957	\$5,085,418	105.64	\$23.88	\$457,687

#### New Projects Approved for Fiscal Year 2011

There have been a series of new projects approved by the USFS that will become active during Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11). These projects (Tables 6-8) will be actively monitored along with the ongoing projects from FY10 and included in the following year's monitoring report. The new projects approved for FY11 are as follows:

# Forest Service Stewardship Contracts

#### Table 6 – FY11 Approved Forest Service Stewardship Contracts

Proj	ect	Na	me

**Elk Thin Stewardship Contract** 

**Skinner Thin Stewardship Contract** 

#### Retained Receipts Projects

Table 7 – FY11 Approved Retained Receipts Projects

Project Number	Project Name	Stewardship \$
		Approved
FS-050	Siuslaw Meadow Maintenance	\$10,000
FS-051	ONHIC Plover Nest Protection	\$30,000
FS-052	APHIS-WS Plover Predator Management	\$37,000
FS-053	Road Closure/Vehicle Barrier Repair	\$35,000
FS-055	Riparian Planting	\$3,000
FS-056	Road 53 Sediment Reduction	\$45,000
Total Value		\$160,000

# Wyden Projects

Table 8 - FY11 Approved Wyden Projects

Project Number	Project Name	Stewardship \$	
		Approved	
WY-A3-04	Starr Creek Preserve Forest Health Initiative	\$14,813	
WY-A3-05	Lincoln SWCD Knotweed Control	\$19,873	
WY-A3-06	Upper Yachats River Restoration	\$13,101	
WY-A3-07	Yachats Clematis Treatment	\$14,688	
WY-M3-07	Greasy Creek Riparian Restoration	\$26,769	
WY-S3-08	Siuslaw Riparian Restoration 2011	\$36,896	
Total Value		\$126,140	

## **Section Six: Implementation Monitoring**

In order to track ecological responses to the LSR thinning treatments within stewardship timber sale areas, IRM installed a series of monitoring plots. These included Common Stand Exams (CSE) and photo point plots. The SMP FY10 Database provides access and analysis of all of these monitoring data.

# Photo Point Monitoring

The purpose of the photo point monitoring is to establish pre and post-harvest photo plots to document pre-harvest conditions and track changes resulting from timber harvesting associated with stewardship contracts. The points selected for FY10, were all located in stewardship timber sales scheduled to be harvested over the course of the next several years. All photo point plots installed during FY10 are permanently referenced with metal posts and tags as well as blazed reference trees. In addition, each plot was mapped using a resource grade Global Positioning System (GPS). Each photo point includes four cardinal directions (North, East, South and West) photos, and a canopy (overhead) photo. These photos will allow individuals viewing the photos to track visual changes to vegetation such as species composition, size and percent cover over time as the stand progresses from restoration thinning.

IRM installed a total of 28 sets of pre-harvest photos and 11 post-harvest photos. On the following pages are examples of pre and post-harvest photo points taken on the Camp Thin stewardship timber sale. The SMP FY10 Database provides the user with the ability to view all the photos.

# Camp Thin Unit 22 Plot 2

Camp Thin Unit 22 Plot 2 North Pre-Harvest



Camp Thin Unit 22 Plot 2 North Post-Harvest



Camp Thin Unit 22 Plot 2 South Pre-Harvest



Camp Thin Unit 22 Plot 2 South Post-Harvest



Camp Thin Unit 22 Plot 2 East Pre-Harvest



Camp Thin Unit 22 Plot 2 East Post-Harvest



Camp Thin Unit 22 Plot 2 West Pre-Harvest



Camp Thin Unit 22 Plot 2 West Post-Harvest



Camp Thin Unit 22 Plot 2 Overhead Pre-Harvest



Camp Thin Unit 22 Plot 2 Overhead Post-Harvest



The purpose of the Common Stand Exam (CSE) monitoring is to collect pre-harvest ecological data in order to establish a base line to tract changes in stand dynamics post-harvest. To accomplish this, there were 39,  $1/10^{th}$  acre (37.2 ft. radius) CSE plots installed or re-measured across six stewardship timber sales. These plots were overlaid at photo point locations. By incorporating the photo point pictures and CSE data, viewers will be able to compare the visual changes to the statistical changes as the stand progresses. On each plot, these data were collected:

- Tree level data: Species, diameter, height, crown class, crown ratio, damage, age and growth information
- Vegetation data: Species, % cover and average height of all plants down to trace presence
- Down woody material: Piece count, length, diameter at large and small end and decay class

Inclusion of CSE data collection was initiated in the FY08 contract. FY10 is the first year that post-harvest data had been collected. There were a total of 28 pre-harvest stand exam plots and 11 post-harvest stand exam plots installed or re measured in FY10. In subsequent years, the SNF plans to re-measure all pre-harvest plots to document post-harvest conditions. Table 9 illustrates an example of summary statistics from CSE data compiled from the Camp Thin stewardship timber sale as will be seen in the *SMP FY10 Database* (same plot as the photo points shown above).

As part of the FY09 monitoring contract, IRM prepared a Siuslaw Monitoring Project Stand Exam Data Collection Program as well as a manual to be used as a reference for future contractors involved in the data collection. The major benefit of these tools is to streamline the data collection process in order to ensure that data collected in future measurements will be compatible with past data collected. In addition, with the data collection program, contractors are able to collect inventory data with the utmost accuracy and efficiency, and transfer these data to the USFS with greater ease.

With the completion of post-harvest photographs and the associated stand exam data collection during the FY10 season, this year's database has built in a new functionality for the plots which have both pre and post-harvest stand exam data. As seen in Table 9, there is a "compare" feature which will provide the viewer with an instant comparison of several forestry statistics.

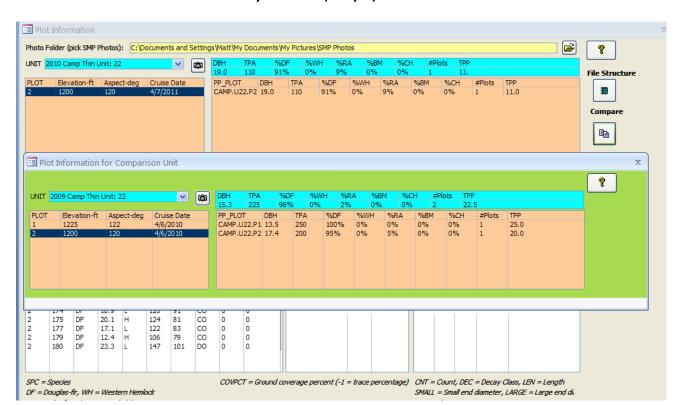


Table 9 – Common Stand Exam Summary Statistics (sample)

Table 9 is a screenshot of the Common Stand Exam inventory plot - Camp Thin Unit 22 Plot 2 (same as the photo point pictures (pages 18-20)) as seen on the *SMP FY10 Database*. The majority of the acronyms used in this table are defined in the bottom gray bar of the screenshot. Below is a brief explanation of these data presented in this table:

- Top Right Blue Table: Stand level data summary (TPA= trees per acre, TPP= trees per plot)
- Right and Left Salmon Colored Table: Plot level data summary
- Left White Table: Plot level tree data
- Center White Table: Vegetation data
- Left White Table: Down woody material data

# Field Trip # 1 Alsea Stewardship Group - September 8, 2011



Andy Kittel describes log and boulder placement on Canal Creek.

The September 8<sup>th</sup> field trip included four stops at three different projects. The first two stops were used to view two sites that are part of the Canal Creek Wyden project. This project consisted of log placements and native plantings. The group heard from various speakers, discussing the benefits that all five anadramous fish species that use this creek will have.

The third stop was used to view the Skinner Thin Stewardship Sale. Here, the sale purchaser Jerry Keck of Georgia-Pacific, discussed the increased value of domestic timber due to strong the export market. In addition, the group discussed

the thinning prescriptions used for this timber sale, the associated restorative activities and pros and cons of burning in this forest type.

The final stop of the day was used to view the Siletz Tribal property on Arnold Creek. Mike Kennedy, natural resource manager for the Confederated Tribe of n the Siletz Indians, described how the property was acquired and what the management goals are. He informed the group that roughly 1/3 of the parcel is considered occupied marbled murrelet habitat.

# Field Trip # 2 Siuslaw Stewardship Group – October 14, 2011

The October 14<sup>th</sup> field trip began in Veneta, OR and focused on three site visits. The first stop was at the Panther Creek Progeny Site. Here, Mark Stephen, BLM Eugene District Silviculturalist, discussed the management history of the site and the differences associated with using conventional timber sales vs. stewardship timber sales.

The group next traveled to the Siuslaw Stew Timber Sale, a LSR unit that was recently thinned.

Participants discussed the thinning prescriptions and the value of packaging the associated restorative active active.



Panther Creek Progeny Site.

the value of packaging the associated restorative activities within the stewardship contract.

The last stop of the day was at the Alma Forest Camp, which was formally the site of an inmate work crew program until it was closed due to budget cuts several years ago. The group discussed the Bear

West Timber Sale, which did not sell due to high costs associated with logging. Dan Segotta, of the Siuslaw National Forest, discussed various methods used to deal with these situations. The final topic of the field trip was discussion of the potential management options within the 43,000 acre Oxbow Fire area.

#### Field Trip # 3 Hebo Stewardship Group Fall Field Trip – November 4th, 2011

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Hebo Stewardship Group had their first field trip since becoming the most recent stewardship group in western Oregon. The field trip consisted of two stops which viewed a variety of restoration and thinning projects.

The first stop was at a restoration site near the Stillwell Creek confluence with the Little Nestucca River. This stop was used to discuss a stream habitat improvement project, as well as others that are happening in the area.

**Timber sale in the Hebo Ranger District** 

The second stop of the tour was to discuss terrestrial projects that are planned in the Stillwell area. A variety

of speakers discussed how the Northwest Forest Plan objectives and direction to manage for late successional forests relate to the thinning, planting and deadwood creation in the Stillwell area.

# Field Trip # 4 Joint Meeting – December 6, 2011



Johnny Sundstrom addressing stewardship groups at Beverly Beach State Park

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Alsea, Hebo, Marys Peak and Siuslaw Stewardship groups met at Beverly Beach State Park for a joint stewardship group meeting.

The event began with a catered lunch and opportunity for informal conversation. The first session of the meeting consisted of members of each of the four stewardship groups highlighting one of the restoration projects from 2011. Next, the groups heard discussions from Jonny Sundstrom discussing the restoration economy in the Siuslaw Basin and Matt Mellenthin providing an overview of FY2010 Multiparty Monitoring Report.

After a short break, the groups heard from Ross Holloway as he discussed the 2012 budget cycle. The groups next heard a discussion covering various strategies for working with the media in various formats. The final topic of the day was stewardship re-authorization, led by Jonny Sundstrom.

# **Section Eight: Recommendations**

IRM has the following recommendations for future monitoring contracts. These changes relate to stewardship project tracking.

- Streamline reporting of end of the fiscal year accomplishments for Wyden projects to make biophysical accomplishment reporting more uniform. This can be accomplished by requiring grantees to provide an interim report detailing the expenditures and accomplishments for the project during the current fiscal year, due by the end of the year. This would allow accurate tracking of the biophysical accomplishments on an annual basis, rather than the current end of the project results.
- Host data for Microsoft Access database on a web-based server to allow for more security of data, provide more technological options and make platform more user friendly. Currently, the Microsoft Access database is a necessary tool to house data collected and analyzed. However access to these data can be complicated and cumbersome for the general public due to the fact that the application and data must be downloaded onto a personal computer (detailed instructions are available on the Cascade Pacific RC&D website). A web-based server would allow the public to browse to the Cascade Pacific RC&D website and navigate through these stewardship data with less background application knowledge required and no need to download the application or these large data files.