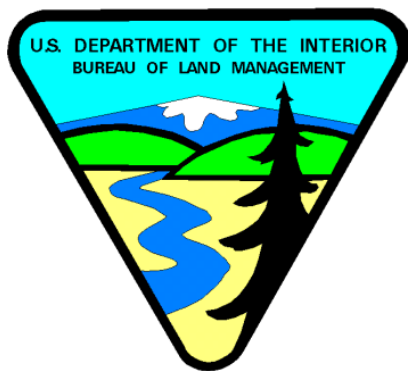


Interlakes Stewardship Agreement First Year Operating Plan



August 2010

Introduction

The Interlakes Stewardship Agreement (ISA) is a stewardship project that combines goals of the Bureau of Land Management, Redding Field Office (BLM) and the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD) for the health and enhancement of land in the Upper Clear Creek Watershed. The ISA encompasses approximately 54,000 acres and includes the 30,000 acre Chappie-Shasta OHV Area—a public recreation area with over 150 miles of trails and roads that receive moderately heavy use. About fifty percent of the lands were obtained through land tenure transactions with industrial timberland owners. Most of this area has a large backlog of improvement projects for forest health along with road and trail maintenance. Dense forests need thinning and OHV roads and trails are getting overgrown and need maintenance to provide a well-maintained recreation area that is ecologically healthy, more accessible for recreationists, fire resistant, with less road and trail erosion.

The BLM *Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area Final Plan* (October 1997) presents a number of goals, including projects to improve forest health, reduce fire hazards, and maintain and improve the OHV area including the road systems. Funding for projects is expected to be generated from product sales, including thinning, biomass utilization, firewood, native tree seedlings, Christmas tree permits, and additional items that could be developed throughout the course of the agreement. Funding will also be solicited from various state and federal agency grant programs and contributions from recreational organizations and foundations. Volunteer assistance from organizations would also help in maintaining the area for future public use and enjoyment.

The stewardship responsibilities of WSRCD began when Western Shasta Soil Conservation District was formed on July 5, 1957 as a subdivision of the State of California under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code. Over the years the district's focus on soils expanded into all areas of conservation resulting in a name change to the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD). As a special district, WSRCD covers 1.7 million acres in western Shasta County. The WSRCD mission is "to collaborate with willing landowners, government agencies, and other organizations to facilitate the conservation or restoration of Western Shasta County's natural resources." WSRCD currently operates with a 7-member volunteer board of directors and staff of twenty-five with an annual budget in the range of \$1.7-\$2.5 million from grants and service agreements.

The goals of both BLM and the WSRCD are complemented in the stewardship agreement, which includes forest health, resource management and recreation projects such as: selective cut timber sales, forest plantation thinning, hazard fuels reduction, burned area emergency stabilization and rehabilitation, wildlife and botanical surveys, vegetation monitoring,

watershed restoration, OHV trail and road maintenance, and recreation development. These projects contribute to the resource management goals to maintain and improve healthy conditions of the Upper Clear Creek watershed and manage for recreation opportunities in the OHV Area.

Several projects have already been identified for implementation during the first year. Initial funding has been provided by BLM (\$25,000) and the Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) under Title II Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (\$132,000). The RAC funds are for two years and deliverables include a first year and five-year strategic plan for the OHV Area, as well as project implementation that fits the funding available.

INTERLAKES STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FIRST YEAR PROJECTS

1. Interlakes Stewardship Agreement Five-Year Strategic Plan

- Complete a five-year plan that includes a detailed list of projects and programs to develop during the first five years of the stewardship agreement.
 - WSRCD Staff will work with representatives from the USFS and the BLM, local stakeholder groups like the French Gulch Upper Clear Creek Watershed Management Group and the Shasta Rock Rollers, and other interested stakeholders to develop a five-year strategic plan for the stewardship agreement.

2. Flat Creek Road Decommissioning

- Complete road rehabilitation in Flat Creek Unit 1 off of Iron Mountain Road.
 - Remove trash and tires (former dump site).
WSRCD crews will use a dump trailer and mule to collect and remove tires and trash from the unit.
 - Rip old roads and landings with a D-4 Dozer.
Rent a D-4 Dozer from 1-5 Rentals delivered to the site with a certified operator to rip the roads.

Small selection of tires that need to be removed from the Flat Creek Units



- Seed and mulch old roads and landings.
BLM provided a recommended seed list for seeding the area. The seed will be ordered and WSRCD crews will spread the seed and cover it with certified weed-free straw using a strawblower.

| Species | Common name | Type | Pounds |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Elymus glaucus | Blue Wildrye | Grass | 30 |
| Elymus multisetus | Squirrel Tail | Grass | 10 |
| Koeleria macrantha | June Grass | Grass | 20 |
| Melica californica | Calif. Onion Grass | Grass | 30 |
| Poa secunda secunda | One sided Bluegrass | Grass | 25 |
| Vulpia microstachys | Three Week Fescue | Grass | 15 |
| Achillea millefolium | Yarrow | Forbes | 2 |
| Grindelia camporum | Gum Plant | Forbes | 2 |
| Lupinus bicolor | Small-flowered Lupine | Forbes | 2 |
| Lupinus nanus | Sky Lupine | Forbes | 2 |
| Trifolium willdenovii | Tomcat clover | Forbes | 2 |
| TOTAL | | | 140 |

- Plant old roads and landings.
In addition to seeding and mulching, WSRCD Crews will plant a selection of native oaks and ponderosa pine in a staggered arrangement throughout the decommissioned roads and landing sites to further enhance the natural recovery of the sites.
- Remove and treat exotics such as tree of heaven, scotch broom, and Himalayan blackberry. WSRCD crews will identify exotic infestations within the units and slash and treat the stumps with herbicide.

***Ailanthus altissima* has begun to heavily invade some areas of the Flat Creek Units**



- Consult with the BLM about plans for road rehabilitation in Unit 2 once the mastication has been completed.
 - Improve private access road in order to allow mastication equipment and chip vans ingress and egress to Unit 3.
- The WSRCD will hire a private contractor to improve the access road with erosion control structures, rock wet crossings, and shave a hillside in order for mastication equipment and chip vans to access the units.

Erosion on private access road in the Flat Creek Units



3. Interlakes Forest Health Sale

Mark and Cruise

- Mark and cruise the Big Gulch Units off of East Fork Road.
 - Flag unit boundaries and equipment exclusion zones
A WSRCD crew will flag all the units and mark all equipment exclusion zones with BLM-approved flagging.
 - Cruise and mark the timber.
The WSRCD will contract with and assist Kenneth Baldwin and Associates to cruise and mark the timber using a datalogger provided by BLM. BLM will download and provide an analysis of the data.

Timber Sale

- Sell the timber from the Big Gulch Units.

WSRCD will negotiate a price with BLM for the timber and then prepare a bid packet and sell the timber. Oversight of the logging operation will be coordinated between the BLM and WSRCD with assistance by Kenneth Baldwin and Associates.

4. Interlakes Road Maintenance & Trail Improvement

- Stoddard Gulch & Interlakes Access Road Improvements.
 - The WSRCD will work with the BLM to design and implement road improvements on portions of East Fork Road, Road #27, and Road #1 in order to access the Big Gulch and Stoddard Gulch Units. Work will include winterizing problem areas and improving narrow locations in order to allow timber harvesting equipment and chip vans ingress and egress.
 - The WSRCD will work with the BLM to select and improve up to 2 miles of OHV Trails.

| Interlakes Stewardship Agreement First Year Operating Plan Tasks | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| FLAT CREEK ROAD DECOMMISSIONING | | | |
| TASK | DESCRIPTION | RESPONSIBLE ENTITY | COMPLETION |
| 1.1 | GPS roads to be ripped and areas to be planted | WSRCD | August 2010 |
| 1.2 | Clean up trash and tires | WSRCD | September 2010 |
| 1.3 | Rip Roads and landings | WSRCD | September 2010 |
| 1.4 | Seed and mulch roads | WSRCD | October 2010 |
| 1.5 | Plant landings and decommissioned roads with native oaks and pines | WSRCD | October 2010 |
| 1.6 | Treat exotics and invasive plants | WSRCD | November 2010 |
| 1.7 | Repair Access Road (Private Property) | WSRCD/ CONTRACTOR | April/May 2011 |
| STODDARD GULCH AND INTERLAKES FOREST HEALTH SALE MARKING & CRUISING | | | |
| 2.1 | Flag Big Gulch Unit Boundaries | WSRCD | August 2010 |
| 2.2 | Mark and Cruise Timber | CONTRACTOR | September 2010 |
| 2.3 | Download Cruising Data | BLM | September 2010 |
| 2.4 | Mark timber to be cut | CONTRACTOR | September 2010 |
| 2.5 | Prepare bid packet, sell timber | WSRCD | June 2011 |
| INTERLAKES ROAD AND TRAIL MANINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT | | | |
| 3.1 | Inventory and rank culverts and other potential problem areas along the selected portions of East Fork Road, Route 27, and Route 1. | WSRCD | June 2011 |
| 3.2 | Improve and create additional access to the Interlakes Area | CONTRACTOR | November 2011 |
| 3.3 | Maintain and/or improve priority trails | WSRCD | December 2011 |
| INTERLAKES MULTI-YEAR PLAN | | | |
| 4.1 | Develop a five-year strategic plan for the Interlakes Stewardship Agreement | WSRCD | December 2011 |