



File Code: 1950

Date: January 13, 2021

Dear Reader,

The Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District is initiating an environmental analysis for the **Rosland Salvage and Reforestation and Paulina Reforestation Project** located within the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest. The Rosland Road Fire began on July 18, 2020 and was contained at 393 acres. This fire is located near Rosland Road and Newberry Estates, 4 miles NE of La Pine, Oregon. The legal description is T21S R11E Section 32 and T22S R11E Sections 5 and 8. (Figure 1)

The Paulina Lake Fire began on July 8, 2020 and was contained at 48 acres and is located near Highway 97 and Forest Service Road 21, 6 miles NE of La Pine, Oregon. The legal description is T21S R11E Sections 17 and 20. (**Error! Reference source not found.**)

The Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District is interested in your comments regarding the proposal to salvage approximately 197 acres of dead and/or dying trees and to conduct post-fire reforestation of approximately 381 acres. (Figure 1 and Figure 2)

Forest Plan Management Direction

The Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) guides all management activities on the Forest. The Rosland Road and Paulina Lake Fires project areas are exclusively within General Forest Management Area (MA-8). The overall objective of this management area is to convert unmanaged stands to managed stands. The aim of a managed forest is to have stands in a variety of age classes with all stands utilizing the site growth potential. This is achieved through stand treatments which include (but are not limited to) controlling stocking levels; maintaining satisfactory growth rates, protecting stands from insects, disease, and damage; controlling species composition; and regenerating stands that are no longer capable of optimum growth performance.

This project is not subject to the interim ecosystem standard contained in the Regional Forester's Forest Plan Amendment #2 (Eastside Screens) because it is a salvage sale. It is also not subject to riparian standards because there are no riparian areas present. This project is subject to the Interim Wildlife Standard and must follow the direction provided in Scenario A. Salvage activities would not remove any dead or dying trees greater than 20" diameter at breast height (dbh).



Purpose and Need

The purpose and need of this project is to:

- Salvage danger trees along travel routes in order to provide for public, administrative, and operation safety.
- Salvage dead and dying trees greater than or equal to 9 inches dbh and less than 15 inches dbh to aid in reforestation activities.
- Provide opportunities for commercial operators by providing a source of fuelwood and sawlog.
- Establish fuel conditions that would promote reforestation activities.
- Reforest desired tree species to aid in the accelerated development of forest conditions consistent with General Forest management area objectives.

Proposed Action

This project proposes to:

Salvage: Salvage dead and dying trees on a total of 197 acres of National Forest System lands within the Rosland fire only. Salvage is proposed along road corridors and within reforestation units.

Salvage of danger trees and other dead and dying trees along Forest System roads 2205200, 9750200, and 9750 occurs on 65 acres within Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Actions include felling and removing danger trees, regardless of size, along with other dead and dying trees, less than 21" dbh, within 140 feet on either side of the road corridor.

Salvage of dead and dying trees greater than or equal to 9 inches and less than 15 inches dbh is proposed within Units 8, 9, 14, 15, and 18. This would provide a fuel condition that would promote reforestation activities.

Planting and Site Preparation: Approximately 385 acres of the burned areas would be reforested through planting of ponderosa pine (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Seedlings would be planted uniformly across that area, approximately 150 trees per acre. Within the grid planting, cluster planting is proposed to provide spatial heterogeneity in stands. Cluster planting includes pockets that would be planted at higher densities, groups of 10 to 15 seedlings. The seedlings would be planted by hand using an auger or hoe. Planting would occur in spring and their roots would be treated with terra sorb hydrogel to protect the seedlings from planting and moisture stress.

In order to ensure the success of seedling survival, fuels would need to be reduced. Site prep to address excess fuels would take place on 331 acres, trees less than 9 inches dbh

would be removed either using hand methods or machinery. The slash would be machine piled using an excavator-mounted grapple and then burned. Grapple piling would not occur on in areas exceeding 30% slopes. In areas where there are predominantly small diameter trees (less than or equal to 6 inches dbh), a masticator may be used to do both site prep cutting and the fuel treatment.

Animal Damage Control: Vexar (plastic) tubing would be used where necessary to protect the seedlings from deer, elk, and rabbits.

Vegetation Control: To reduce competition to planted seedlings in future years, grubbing of vegetation within a 3 foot to 5 foot radius could be needed to allow for acceptable levels of seedling growth and survival.

Dwarf Mistletoe Control: Monitoring for live dwarf mistletoe infected ponderosa pine trees interior to planting areas or within 66 feet of the planting unit boundary would take place. If necessary, pruning or girdling would occur to prevent dwarf mistletoe spread to planted seedlings.

Unauthorized Route Decommissioning: Within the Rosland Road Fire there are 1.3 miles of unauthorized routes that would be decommissioned if funding is available.

Table 1 - Proposed Salvage and Reforestation Acres

Fire Name	Salvage Acres		Reforestation Acres	Site Prep Acres
	Roadside Units	Salvage >9" to <15" dbh		
Rosland	65	0	371	331
Paulina Lake	0	0	14	0
TOTAL	65	132	385	331
	197			

Resource protection measures would be incorporated to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plant species, to protect any existing cultural resources, and to provide snag habitat to benefit certain wildlife species such as woodpeckers. The area does not provide habitat for any threatened or endangered species and there is no surface water in the area.

Public Involvement and How to Provide Comments

I'm asking for your input on this project to help determine if there are any issues or resource concerns that we might not already be aware of. It would be most helpful to received input by February 5, 2021. Submit comments by email to: comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-bendftrock@usda.gov and list "Rosland and Paulina Fires" in the subject line. Comments must be submitted as part of an actual email message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or portable document format (pdf) only. Comments submitted to other email addresses, in any other format, or that contain viruses will be rejected.

Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. However, if necessary, comments may be submitted by post mail to: Kevin Larkin, District Ranger, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, 63095 Deschutes Market Road, Bend, OR 97701. Hand delivered comments are discouraged at this time.

This project falls within a category of action that may be excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. For more information, please contact Chelsea Fields, NEPA Planner, at 541-383-4012 or Chelsea.fields@usda.gov.

NOTICE: Documents associated with this project, including public comments, are part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process 40 CFR parts 1500 – 1508 and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 5 U.S.C. 552. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents or the eligibility to object.

Sincerely,

KEVIN W. LARKIN

District Ranger

Enclosed:

Rosland Salvage

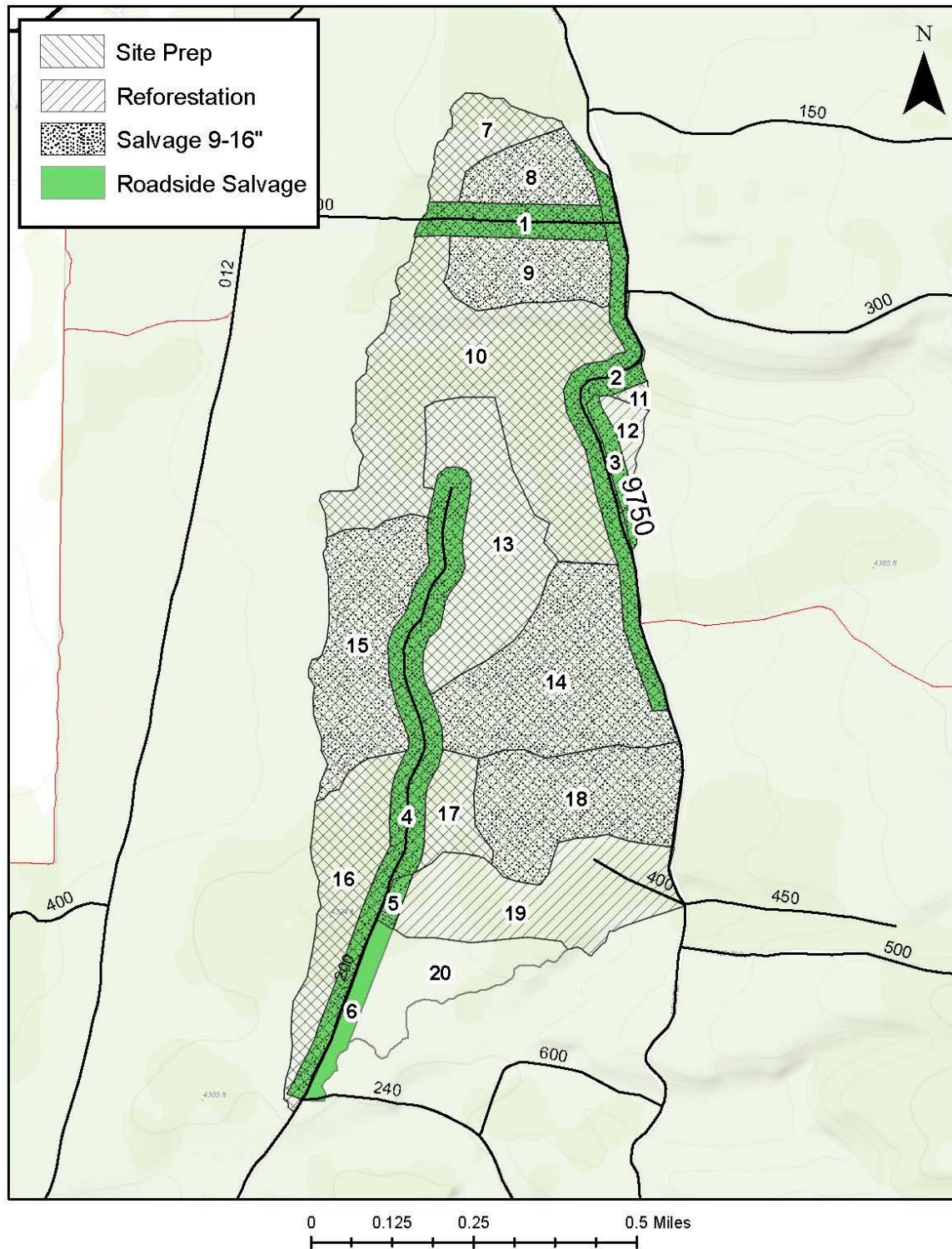


Figure 1- Vicinity of the proposed Rosland Fire salvage and reforestation project

Paulina Lake Fire Reforestation

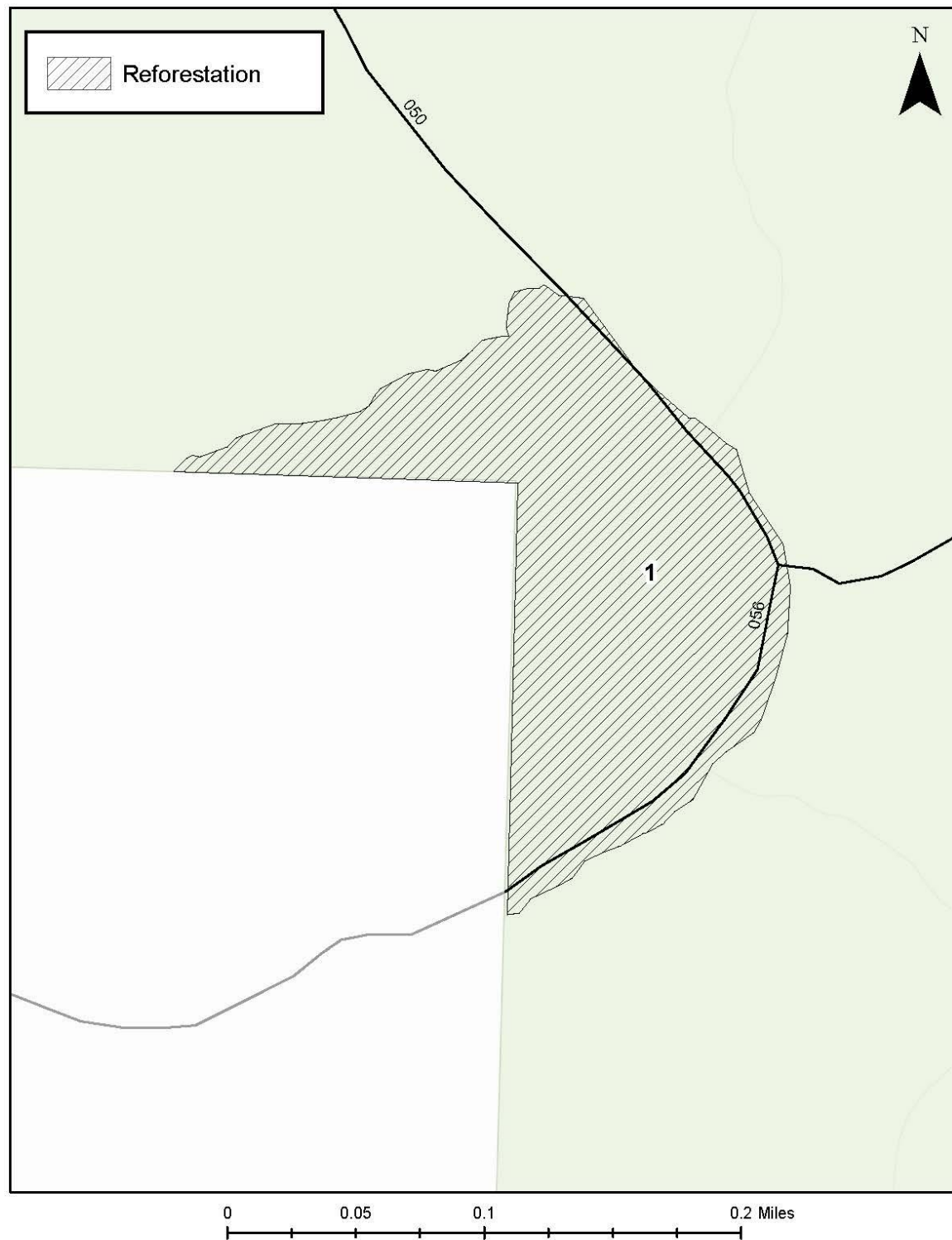


Figure 2 - Vicinity of the proposed Paulina Lake Fire Reforestation project