

Regional Interagency Executive Committee

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Memorandum

Date: OCT 12 2011

To: Regional Interagency Executive Committee (see attached list)

From: Chair, Regional Interagency Executive Committee 

Subject: Regional Interagency Executive Committee Notes from September 29, 2011

This memorandum transmits summary notes from the Regional Interagency Executive Committee (RIEC) conference call on September 29, 2011. Discussions focused on the three topics noted below, and several follow-up items were identified.

Departmental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on BLM Forest Management

Implementation of the MOU is ongoing in several areas:

- The Washington Office is addressing plan-level consultation. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and agency attorneys are currently engaged in these discussions.
- At the regional level, a team of scientists is addressing project-level consultation issues by focusing on the effects of management activities in riparian areas. Recommendations stemming from that effort are expected this fall.
- The US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution and Oregon Consensus are wrapping up a collaborative inquiry designed to assess stakeholder interest in a large-scale collaborative effort.
- The BLM continues to involve stakeholders in the Secretarial pilot efforts. The latest information on pilot activities is available online at:
<http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/forests/index.php>

Follow-up: The RIEC expressed interest in a paper by Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin describing restoration principles to be demonstrated in the pilot projects. The document is available on the BLM website at:

http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/forests/files/Franklin_Johnson_restoration_overview_Nov_30%20final.pdf

Marbled Murrelet Critical Habitat and Red Tree Vole

The USFWS plans to issue a final rule on revised marbled murrelet critical habitat in October. A 12-month finding on a petition to list the red tree vole is also expected this month.

Follow-up: The USFWS will provide RIEC members with a summary table showing when the red tree vole and other species on the multi-district litigation (MDL) list are likely to be addressed.

15-year Monitoring Reports and Interagency Monitoring Efforts

The Northwest Forest Plan 15-year monitoring reports are available online at:

<http://www.reo.gov/monitoring/reports/15yr-report/>. The Regional Monitoring Team (RMT) is working with the Senior Managers Group (SMG) to develop recommendations regarding ongoing and future monitoring efforts in light of declining agency budgets. The RIEC anticipates a need for strategic discussions and potential decisions on this topic early in 2012.

Follow-up: The RMT will provide each RIEC member with a complete set of 15-year monitoring reports when all of the documents are published.

Next Meeting / For Further Information

The next RIEC meeting is tentatively scheduled for February or March of 2012. The specific date and agenda will be determined as we move forward. In the meantime, if you have questions regarding this memo – or if your agency has emerging issues or other topics that may warrant RIEC discussion prior to 2012 – please contact Debbie Pietrzak at 503-808-6006 or your REO representative.

cc: REO reps, SMG

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