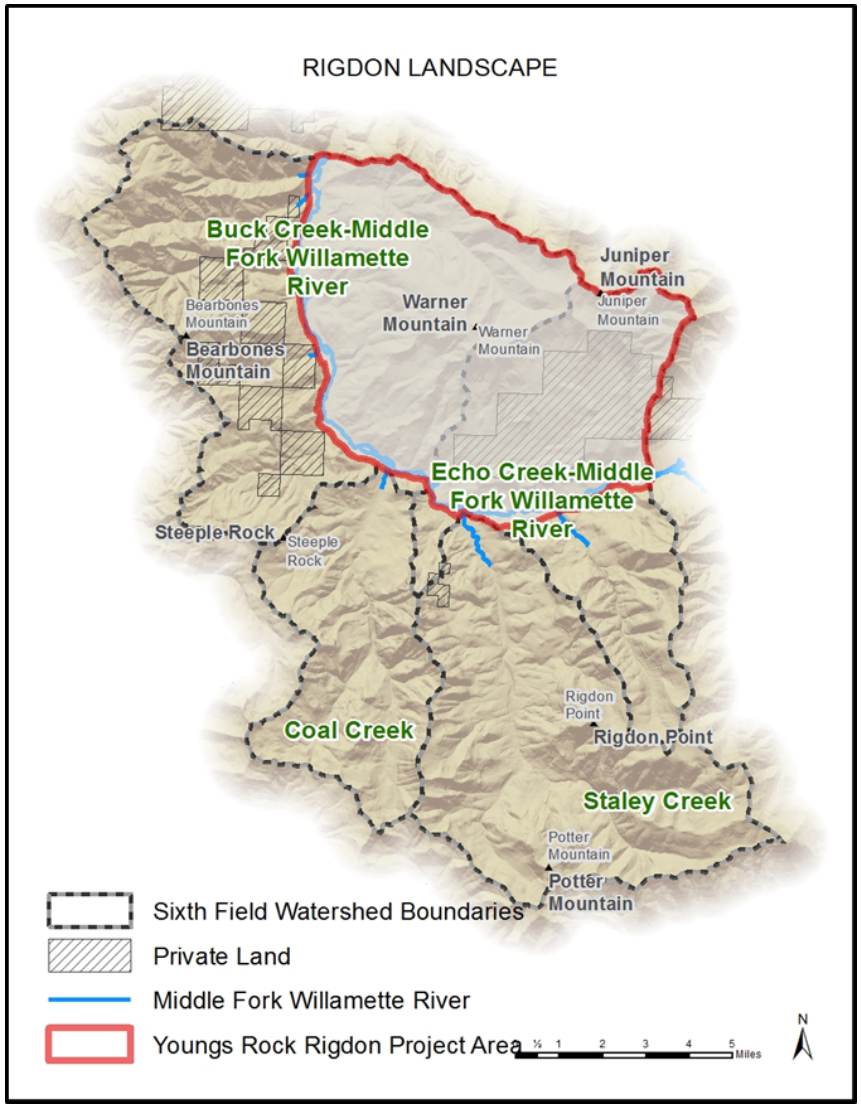
Youngs Rock Rigdon Project



- A "restoration blueprint" has been established for this area in the Rigdon Landscape Analysis. The design of future projects in the area will be:
  - Informed by a larger, more integrated understanding of the social, ecological, and economic aspects of the landscape.
  - Based on where we can align our restoration opportunities to improve efficiencies and allow better leveraging of funds.
  - Opportunities to integrate restoration goals to increase landscape health and function.

- The first project utilizing information from the Rigdon Landscape Analysis is focused in the northeast portion of the Rigdon area covering 33,000 acres.

- This initial project portioned off the landscape to focus on the bulk of the mixed conifer forest areas as well as restoration activities in and near the mainstem of the Upper Middle Fork Willamette River.

Youngs Rock Rigdon Project: Purpose and Need

Improve stand and landscape diversity, structure, and resiliency

a. Increase diversity and structure in mixed conifer forest
b. Increase diversity and structure in moister forest
c. Meadow and oak savannah restoration
d. Floodplain and aquatic restoration
e. Control stocking and improve structural complexity and diversity of riparian vegetation and complexity restoration as needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives

Identify a sustainable road system needed for safe and efficient travel and for administration, utilization, and protection of National Forest System Lands

Provide a sustainable supply of forest products

Strategically reduce hazardous fuels

Sustainably manage the existing trail system and dispersed recreation while minimizing impacts to natural resources

Youngs Rock Rigdon Project: Proposed Action

Forest management/restoration treatments are proposed on ~6,700 acres

Variable density thinning and regeneration harvest in about **4,500 acres** of stands ranging from 40 to 200 years old. The emphasis is on 1) creating more late seral open forest by thinning in 3,000 acres of older natural stands, 2) accelerating the development of late seral patch connectivity by thinning in 500 acres of younger managed stands and 3) creating more complex early seral habitat by regeneration harvesting in 500 acres of younger managed stands. Treatments would be primarily through timber harvesting but also includes using non-commercial methods such as underburning, fall and leave, and fall and remove for aquatic habitat restoration activities. Variable density thinning includes skips of variable sizes and gaps up to 1 acres in size. Regeneration harvest includes retaining at least 15% unthinned in clumps and scattered trees.

Commercial harvesting is expected to generate **about 46 to 65 million board feet of timber**. Harvest systems for this project include roughly 30% helicopter logging, 50% skyline logging and 20% ground based yarding. Construction of about eight miles of new temporary spur roads, and improvement of approximately four miles of existing non-system roads would be required to access timber harvest units. Temporary roads would be rehabilitated by removing culverts, subsoiling (decompacting), seeding, and mulching with scattered slash to minimize soil erosion and maintain water quality.

Road maintenance and reconstruction activities on about **160 miles** of existing forest system roads within the planning area. This project would decommission up to about **12 miles** of roads and store (close) up to about 60 miles in a hydrologically stable condition. Potentially two rock pits would be developed for this project and would include activities such blasting, crushing, materials wasting, and rock haul.

Hazardous understory fuel reduction treatments in about **1200 acres** primarily around adjacent private industrial forest and along roadsides that connect treated stands in areas that offer an advantage to fire management. Activities would include underburning, understory thinning (removal of brush and trees less than 7 inch DBH), pruning, chipping, piling, and burning. Logging slash as a result of harvest will be addressed within all treated stands with underburning, piling, and pile burning within the stands as well as on landings.

Youngs Rock Rigdon Project: Proposed Action

Forest management/restoration treatments are proposed on ~6,700 acres

Aquatic restoration activities in about **700 acres** of floodplain and Riparian Reserves and include streamside tree tipping, Riparian Reserve fall and leave, floodplain augmentation, and instream restoration. Thinning and fuel treatments would occur in some Riparian Reserves outside of riparian no harvest areas and would include allowing backing prescribed fire.

Meadow restoration activities in about **300 acres** would include tree cutting, piling, pile burning, pruning, noxious weed treatment, underburning, and planting native plants. Milkweed and other pollination sources for monarch butterflies would be planted. Noxious weed treatment would incorporate mechanical, manual, and chemical methods.

Recreation related activities include rerouting about **two miles** of the Middle Fork National Recreation trail. The new trail would be located out of the floodplain to prevent further resource damage and would require the construction of at least three bridges. **Interpretive enhancements** are also proposed for key historic sites within the project area. **Dispersed recreation** opportunities within close proximity to the main stem of the Upper Middle Fork Willamette River would be evaluated based on use, condition, and resource risk. Actions would include site closure with road decommissioning, conversion to walk-in camps, and in some cases no action would be taken.

The Rigdon Landscape Analysis is providing the

basis and rationale for all project level

activities that will be proposed in this project