



Oregon

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August 10, 2010

School Board of Directors.
Blachley Lake School District 90
c/o Ms. Leanne Raze
Superintendent & Principal
Blachly School District 90 &
Triangle Lake School
20264 Blachly Grange Road
Blachly OR 97412

Re: School Lands (Tax Lot 1900) – 2007 Timber Harvest - Reforestation update

Dear Ms. Raze and Members of the Board;

Thank you for your recent call regarding the school owned lands where trees were removed in 2007 by Howell Logging. Our agency received Notification of Operation # 07-50947 on August 15, 2007. Gerald Howell, of Howell Logging, Inc. submitted the notification.

My records indicate that by early September of 2007 the logging was complete.

Now as we approach the third year of the new forest a bit of review is in order.

The total area under consideration is about 3 ½ acres.

As you may recall I prepared and submitted a paper for the Board's consideration that discussed species selection for replanting, and other topics, including requirements of the Oregon Forest Practices Act (**ORS 527.745 (1)-(5)**, OAR 629, Division 610, all) for reforestation of lands where timber harvest reduces stocking below stated acceptable levels.

In summary, lands should be replanted within 24 months of the completion of logging, and "free-to-grow" 48 months later. That is to say, by the sixth year, the trees should be well on the way to becoming the dominant vegetation.

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In the course of a couple of visits since the logging occurred I've familiarized myself with the current situation on the hillside.

Since the logging occurred, a row of metal fence posts has been placed along the contour of the hill, identifying a zone of 100 feet from the school building. No trees were to have been planted between the posts and the school.

Courtesy of Weyerhaeuser Company, the neighbor to the south, the area was planted with a variety of tree seedlings in the winter of 2008, in conjunction with planting on the adjacent ownership.

A mixture of species was planted including Douglas fir, Grand fir, and Western Red Cedar. If merchantable value is one of your goals for the trees that were planted, it would be good to get those seedlings up and out of the brush; they were planted well and the survival rate was excellent. The site, albeit a small one, is on a north slope and as such excess heat and drought are not big concerns.

In the Oregon Coast Range, competition from other species, and residual stump sprouts, can create significant competition for planted seedlings.

At present Bigleaf maple stump sprouts are becoming the dominant forest feature. Hazel, currant and other species, including a bit of Scotch Broom are competing with tree seedlings for site capacity. The seedlings that are in the open are thriving. The seedlings that are in the vicinity of the maple stump sprouts, currant, hazel and the like are still viable, though height growth beneath the brush is visibly less than for those seedlings growing in the open.

For the most part the planted seedlings are largely invisible from a distance. If one tramps around a bit, they become evident, as do the row patterns of the planting. It's tough going on foot though.

As noted in 2007, the Forest Practices Act standards describe a free-to-grow condition six years after logging; that's the destination, so to speak. The pathway to the destination is for the landowner to choose. Following is a bit of discussion regarding how you might choose a course of action.

As a Charter School with a natural resources focus, you might wish to include the management of the various species on the hillside into your curriculum, engage some willing students, and in so doing create some ownership on the site that might otherwise be missed. All disciplines can, in some fashion, be considered in the context of forest land, even a forest of 3 ½ acres.

The maple sprouts and other species that are competing with the seedlings could be cut by hand, and stacked in a manner that doesn't impair the ability of the seedlings to grow. The maples will return and subsequent treatments would likely be necessary for several years. With routine manual treatment for a few seasons, the planted seedlings could be allowed to express dominance for the site and in time the pattern and density of the planting would be evident. Some competition from below would still exist. Bigleaf Maple for example, is tolerant of shade.

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Student work is not unknown. No doubt there are some unique considerations, acceptance and support being among them.

By way of example, two years ago a Blachly resident need a couple of acres of trees planted. The job was similar in scope to the task at hand. I engaged the Eugene Outdoor School (also a Charter School) to do the work. A crew of teenagers came around and did the task. The landowner noted she was glad to see the young people doing the work. That school has a works program associated with it during the school year and summer as well.

Another strategy might be to engage your students in the cutting and then have someone else treat the severed stems with an appropriate herbicide. The cost of administering and following up with subsequent cuttings might be traded off for the cost of the herbicide application.

Furthermore, if student labor is not feasible, there are commercial contractors who could cut the brush by hand, for repeated seasons until the planted seedlings express dominance. These days a lot of folks are looking for work.

Many of those same commercial contractors routinely apply herbicides chemicals to competing species (primarily maple stump sprouts) by way of a stem injector device that enables the applicator to dispense a precise amount (typically measured in milliliters) of herbicidal mixture to a cut on the stem; the process is known as the "hack and squirt" method.

I have enclosed a list of Forest Labor Contractors with this letter; you may wish to inquire of some of them for a better understanding of what sort of costs might be involved.

Bear in mind there is an economy of scale for that sort of service; the size of the area in question would likely cost more per acre than a similar service on a large land holding. I suspect you could have the area treated for less than a thousand dollars.

At any level, strict compliance with all herbicide label requirements and prior notification to the State Forester would be required.

Lastly, the prospect of simply doing nothing with the site may come up. The dynamics of the forest in the Oregon Coast Range being what it is, surely something would develop; at the very least a three acre patch of maple sprouts would dominate the site. Within the Oregon Forest Practices Act are standards for natural regeneration, and management strategies for allowing cutover areas to find their own way back having all trees removed. Typically such a strategy would involve a Written Plan for an Alternate Practice. Submittal of the plan before the logging begins is in keeping with current standards. Also, stands where coppice sprouts (sprouting from stump collar) are employed to create a new forest should have active management of the stump sprouts by cutting all but one dominant sprout and carrying it forward, in appropriate numbers and spacings across the subject acreage. Again, a Written Plan for an Alternate Practice would be in order.

I hope this discussion will be of use to the Board as you consider the land in question. A summary table is provided below.

**Triangle Lake School Hillside
Control of Competing Vegetation**

Method	Pro	Con
Student Workers from Triangle Lake School, repeated manual treatments	Visible, Socially acceptable, possibly integrated to curriculum	Administrative effort, planning, supervision, worker safety concerns
Student Workers from Triangle Lake School, single treatment with Herbicide follow-up	Visible, possibly integrated to curriculum, fewer entries to area.	Worker safety Social Concerns for herbicide usage. Cost of chemicals. Chemical Label requirements for clothing etc. may cost more.
Contract Labor with repeated manual treatments	Less controversy. Low supervision required, professional labor and informed workers.	Cost, over time.
Contract Labor – hack trees w/ herbicide application.	Predictable result, Cost	Controversy, Cost
Do Nothing	Initial Low Cost	Social Cost, loss of productivity, problematic teaching point.

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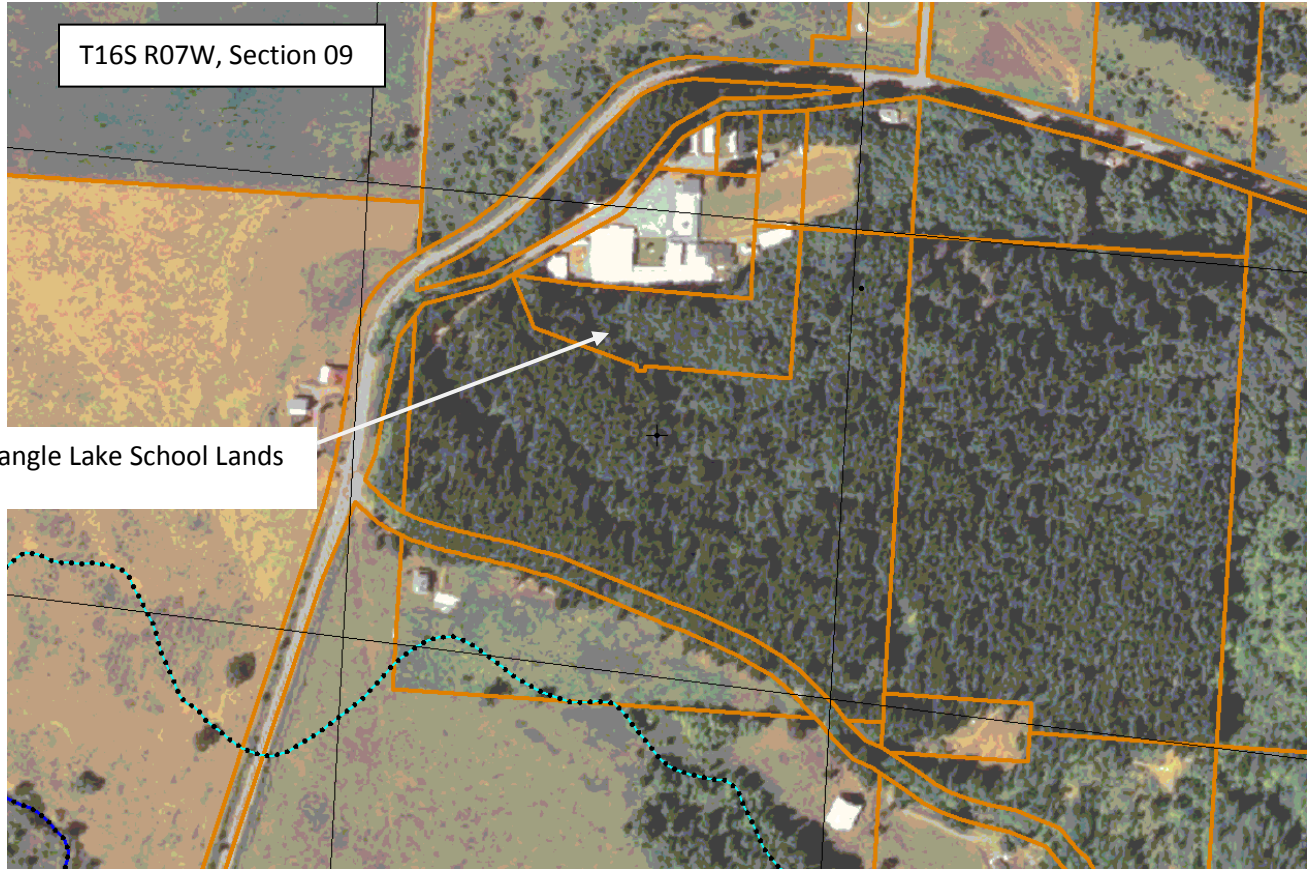
Also enclosed are two aerial photographs from 2005 and then 2009 that depict the site prior to and following the logging. The approximate tax lot boundaries are shown.

The maple sprouts noted above are evident behind the schoolhouse in the 2009 edition.

Feel free to call on me with follow up questions you may have.

Paul Clements
Stewardship Forester

Cc: Link Smith



T16S R07W, Section 09

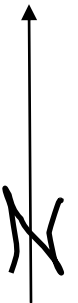
Triangle Lake School Lands

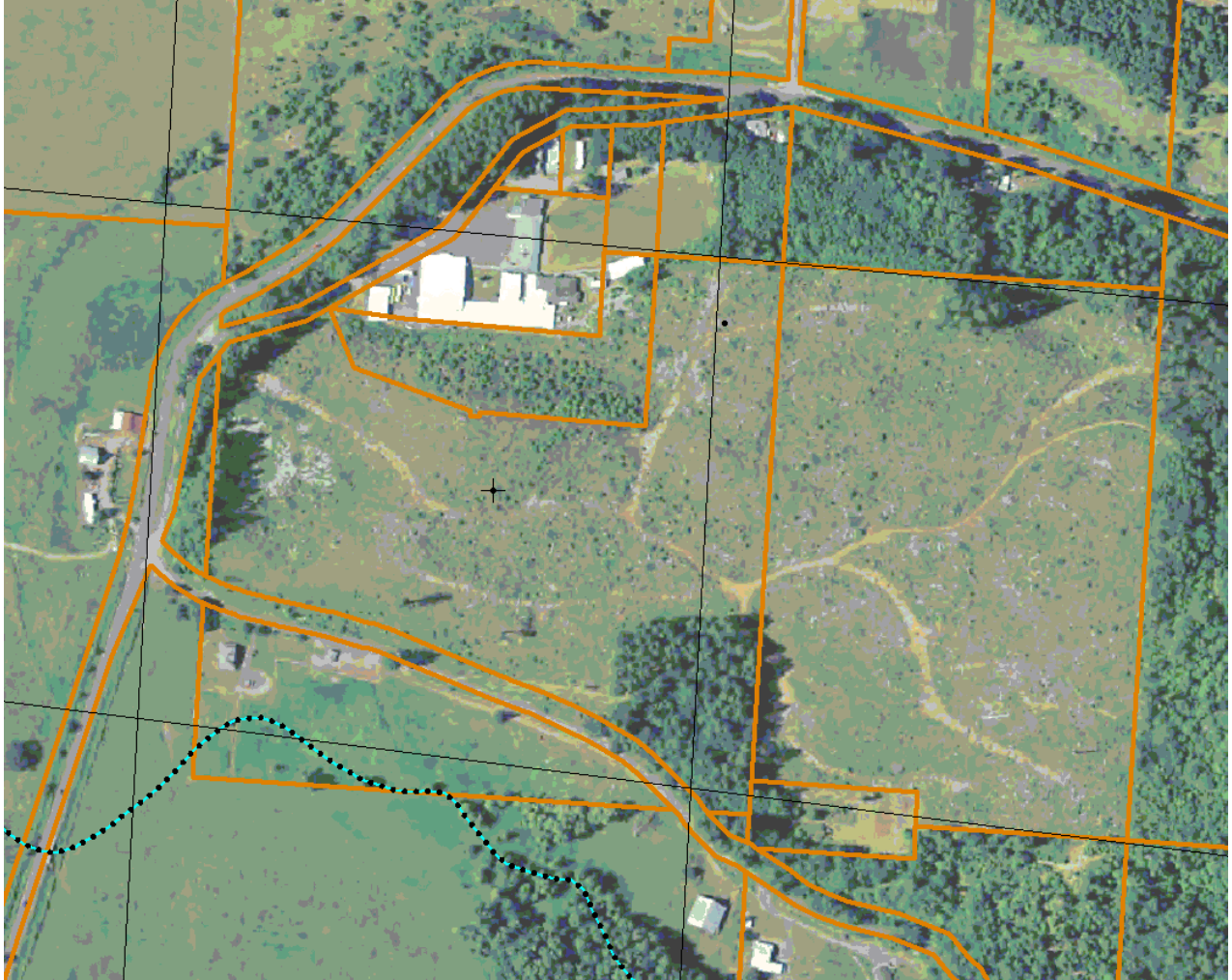
2005 Aerial photograph, illustrates Triangle Lake School and adjacent commercial timberlands.

Orange lines represent ownership boundaries.

**School property south of school, Tax Lot 1900, is approximately 3.8 acres.
Compare area in Tax Lot 1900 to football field on east side of school building.**

←→ Approx. 300 feet





2009 Aerial photograph, illustrates Triangle Lake School and adjacent commercial timberlands.

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