

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
(EA No. OR-116-08-06)

**for the**

**REROUTE OF THE PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL  
IN THE GREEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN AREA**

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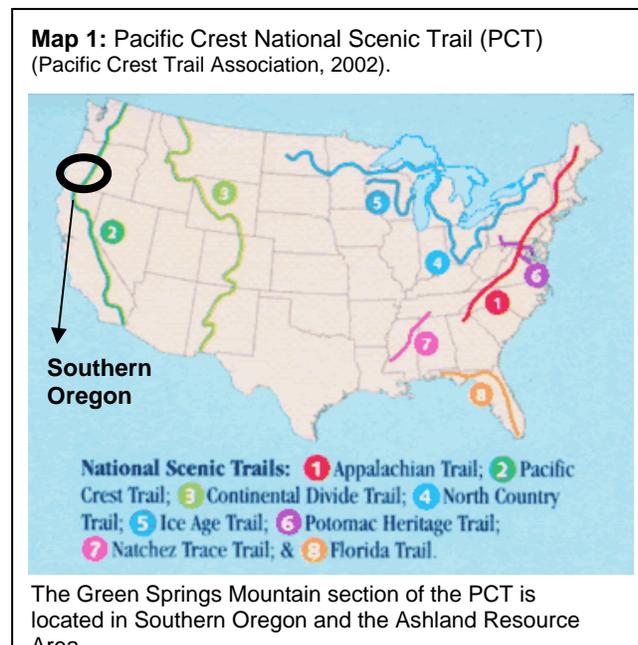
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GREEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN AREA**

**1 PURPOSE AND NEED**

**1.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) is one of eight major recreational trails in the United States of America (Map 1). Located in the west it spans 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada and is rivaled in distance by the Appalachian Trail in the east and Continental Divide Trail in the mountain west. The PCT was designated by Congress as a national scenic trail in 1968. Since its inception, the PCT has been a source of enjoyment for many thousands of recreational users including day-hikers, through hikers (those hiking the trail in its entirety), and equestrian/stock users. Throughout its 2,650 miles, the trail crosses many different categories of land ownership, including federal, state, reservation, National parks, monuments, and State park lands. This mosaic of ownership contributes to the variety of landscapes recreationists see along the trail, as well as the complexity of its management (Pacific Crest Trail Association 2002).



**1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The Green Springs Mountain section is approximately 1.5 miles in length, located in T. 39 S., R. 3 E., Section 30 and 31, nine miles east of Ashland (Appendix A, p. 1).

**1.3 NEED FOR ACTION**

In 1996 the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), in coordination with the USDA Forest Service and

the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), conducted the Pilot Rock Optimal Trail Location Review (OLR) as a precursor to this project. Due to lack of adequate funding and/or unwilling sellers during the initial construction of the PCT several segments had to be placed on “interim” routes along public roads, utility-line corridors, and on narrow, non-restrictive private easements which provide little if any protection to the trail or its users. These interim routes have created conflicts with motorists and landowners, leading to concerns that portions of the current route fail to meet the intent of the National Trails System Act of 1968. Therefore, as a result of the OLR, the Medford District of the BLM proposes to reroute a section of trail near Green Springs Mountain to better meet the National Trails System Act by working to provide the following five objectives:

- (a) Maintain the PCT in the most natural and safe location.
- (b) For the optimal route, develop a “trail corridor” that will facilitate public control of the trail.
- (c) Protect the trail experience from urban encroachment by acquiring land within the “trail corridor.”
- (d) Provide trail users with a feeling that the land mass is below the traveler rather than above it. The trail should follow the “crest” where feasible.
- (e) Locate the PCT in stable terrain to reduce or eliminate trail maintenance problems.

Rerouting this section of the PCT will address recreation management objectives identified in the *Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan* (USDA Forest Service 1982), the *National Trails System Act of 1968*, and the *1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan*.

## **1.4 PROPOSED ACTION**

The Green Springs Mountain section of the PCT would be rerouted from its original location where it parallels BLM Road 39-3E-32 to the west side of Green Springs Mountain to improve the recreational experience of trail users. The new route would encompass picturesque views of the Rogue Valley, wide open meadows, and oak savannah which are bypassed using the current route (Appendix A, p3).

For the short-term, the BLM would leave the old section paralleling BLM Road 39-3E-32 open to create a loop hike for recreationists hoping to complete a short segment of the PCT. However, long-term management of the original section may include re-evaluation of the original section to determine if it should remain open or if decommissioning is appropriate.

According to the OLR, the west side of the mountain provides an ideal camping location, a feeling of solitude and being above the land, and utilizes an abandoned road for approximately a third of the new tread leading to and from the west side of Green Springs Mountain.

## **1.5 PLAN CONFORMANCE**

The proposed action is in compliance with and is tiered to the *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (RMP) as amended by the *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (USDI 2007). The 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan incorporated the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan) (USDA and USDI 1994). This project is also consistent with the *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment* (1998) and tiered to the *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program* (EIS 1985).

The proposed action is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, and the

## **1.6 DECISION TO BE MADE**

The Ashland Resource Area Field Manager must decide whether to implement the Proposed Action as designed or whether to select one of the alternatives. The decision will also include a determination whether or not the impacts of the Proposed Action are significant to the human environment. If the impacts are determined to be insignificant, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued and a decision implemented. If this EA determines that the significance of impacts are unknown or greater than those previously analyzed and disclosed then a project specific EIS must be prepared with a public comment period and a Record of Decision (ROD) to follow.

## **1.7 SCOPING PROCESS**

Scoping is the process the BLM uses to identify issues related to the proposal (40 CFR 1501.7) and determine the extent of environmental analysis necessary for an informed decision. A letter describing the proposal and inviting comments was mailed to interested individuals, organizations, and other agencies on March 6, 2008. One written response was received in support of trail construction. The following issues were identified by the interdisciplinary team to be relevant to the proposed action:

- There is potential for trail construction to contribute to the spread of noxious weeds.
- There is a potential for minor sedimentation to stream channels as a result of trail construction and/or decommissioning.
- There is potential for short-term impacts to wildlife due to trail construction activities.

## **2 ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### **2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)**

Under the No-Action Alternative the Green Springs Mountain section of the PCT would remain in its original location where it parallels BLM Road 39-3E-32 (Appendix A, p. 2).

### **2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2 (PROPOSED ACTION WITH LOOP TRAIL)**

The Green Springs Mountain section of the PCT would be rerouted from its original location where it parallels BLM Road 39-3E-32 to the west side of Green Springs Mountain to improve the recreational experience of trail users. The new route would encompass picturesque views of the Rogue Valley, wide open meadows, and oak savannah which are bypassed using the current route (Appendix A, p. 3).

In addition to rerouting the trail, under this alternative the old section of trail paralleling BLM Road 39-3E-32 would be used as part of a loop trail making shorter day/training hikes possible.

#### **2.2.1 PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES (PDFs) SPECIFIC TO ALTERNATIVE 2**

##### Trail Construction:

- (a) Trail construction would occur from June 15 to September 15 (during the dry season).
- (b) Seeps, springs and wet areas would be avoided. Trail construction would occur on the uphill side of such features.
- (c) Dry draw and channel crossings would be rocked or stepping stones would be placed at strategic locations to reduce the amount of fine sediment entering channels.
- (d) If small foot bridges are constructed to cross stream channels, no pressure-treated wood, concrete, wood laminates, and other unnatural building materials would be permitted.
- (e) The grade of the trail should be less than eight percent and rolling if possible. This will promote good drainage and minimize trail maintenance.
- (f) All disturbed soil should be seeded with native grass and mulched with weed-free straw.
- (g) Only hand tools and chainsaws for brushing will be used--no heavy equipment.
- (h) No trees over 12 inches diameter at breast height will be removed during trail construction.

- (i) An archeologist will be present during trail construction and will provide guidance to mitigate impacts to any cultural resources discovered.

In addition to the above, to minimize the spread of noxious weeds:

- (j) Vehicle and equipment use on existing roads in the project area would be limited to the dry season.
- (k) Project tools and equipment (e.g. shoes, shovels, rakes, pulaskis, etc.) would be washed and cleaned of all soil and vegetative material before entering the project area.
- (l) Project tools and equipment (e.g. shoes, shovels, rakes, pulaskis, etc.) would be brushed clean of all soil and vegetative material before leaving known weed sites and entering sites currently free of weed populations.
- (m) Seeding of native grasses and/or an approved seed mix on highly disturbed soil (trail cuts and fills, project staging area and, where relevant, rehabilitation areas) would occur.
- (n) Noxious weeds along proposed and existing trails and roads in the project area will be inventoried and treated by BLM. Inventories will occur the first three years after completion of trail construction and/or decommission and then periodically thereafter, depending on available funding and workforce.
- (o) Chemical and/or manual treatments of known existing noxious weed populations will occur prior to the start of project activity, depending on available funding and workforce.
- (p) Subsequent chemical and/or manual treatments, pending inventory results, will be scheduled by priority and will occur based on the potential of the weed population to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. These weed treatments would occur depending on available funding and workforce.

To minimize impact to wildlife:

- (q) Any raptor nests located before or during trail construction should be protected. No work should occur within 200 feet of such a nest until the young have left the nest area.

## **2.3 ALTERNATIVE 3 (PROPOSED ACTION WITH REHABILITATION)**

Under the third alternative, the Green Springs Mountain section of the PCT would be rerouted from its original location where it parallels BLM Road 39-3E-32 to the west side of Green Springs Mountain to improve the recreational experience of trail users. The new route would encompass picturesque views of the Rogue Valley, wide open meadows, and oak savannah which are bypassed using the current route (Appendix A, p. 4).

In addition to rerouting the trail, this alternative would decommission the old section of trail paralleling BLM Road 39-3E-32.

### **2.3.1 PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES SPECIFIC TO ALTERNATIVE 3**

Project design features for this alternative would be same as those identified for Alternative 2, except as modified below.

Trail Decommissioning:

- (r) If the old trail is closed ensure proper drainage and decommissioning.

### **3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

#### **3.1 EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

##### **3.1.1 FISH, WATER, AND SOILS**

###### **3.1.1.1 FISHERIES**

###### *Aquatic Habitat*

The proposed trail would be within the drainage area of Keene Creek, a Jenny Creek tributary and Sampson, Soda, and Schoolhouse Creeks, all tributaries to Emigrant Reservoir. The proposed trail crosses several dry draws in Sampson Creek and Soda Creek and a short-duration intermittent in Schoolhouse Creek.

###### *Listed Fish*

On June 18, 1997, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)(now National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) fisheries) listed Southern Oregon/Northern California (SONC) coho salmon as “Threatened” under the Endangered Species Act [FR 62(17):33038]. On May 5, 1999, NMFS designated “Critical Habitat” (CCH) for SONC coho: the habitat necessary to promote the species’ survival [FR64(86):24049]. Essential Fish Habitat as defined by NMFS includes habitat historically occupied by salmonids of commercial importance (including coho). CCH and EFH are approximately four miles downstream, below Emigrant Reservoir.

If the project design features are followed, this project would have no effect on fish or aquatic organisms because seeps, springs, and wet areas would be avoided and channel crossings would be rocked.

###### **3.1.1.2 HYDROLOGY**

The proposed trail would be constructed within Keene Creek Level 6 Subwatershed of Jenny Creek Level 5 Watershed and Upper and Lower Emigrant Creek Level 6 Subwatersheds of Bear Creek Level 5 Watershed. The analysis area was included in the Jenny Creek Watershed Analysis (1995) and the Upper Bear Creek Watershed Analysis (2000). Jenny Creek is a Tier 1 Keywatershed under the Northwest Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management 1994). The proposed trail crosses several dry draws in Sampson and Soda Creeks which drain into the Emigrant Reservoir; and a short-duration intermittent stream in Schoolhouse Creek which drains into Tyler Creek and then into Emigrant Creek.

Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) proposes to construct 1.5 miles of new trail and retains the existing 0.8 miles of trail that parallel Road 39-3E-32 (Little Hyatt Lake Spur Road); whereas, Alternative 3 constructs the new trail, abandons and decommissions the existing section parallel to Road 39-3E-32. Alternative 1 would not relocate the PCT and, therefore, would not change the current hydrological processes on site.

The proposed trail construction will increase short-term sediment production and delivery until such time as the new trail stabilizes. The new trail is expected to minimally affect sediment and hydrologic processes as the new trail will be no greater than 24 inches wide and will avoid seeps, springs and wet areas and rock any channel crossings. Decommissioning of the existing trail in Alternative 3 has the benefit of eliminating a crossing over a short-duration intermittent stream in Keene Creek and minimizing the net increase in trail miles.

###### **3.1.1.3 SOILS**

The predominant soil identified in the area of the proposed trail construction is the Tatouche series on a slope ranging from 8 to 50 percent slopes. The Tatouche gravelly loam is a very deep, well drained soil is on hillslopes. It formed in colluvium derived dominantly from andesite, tuff, and breccia. Typically, the surface is covered with a layer of needles and twigs about 2 inches thick. The surface layer is very dark brown gravelly loam about 11 inches thick. The upper 8 inches of the subsoil is dark brown gravelly clay loam. The lower 41 inches is dark brown clay. The substratum to a depth of 73 inches is strong brown clay loam. The depth to bedrock is 60 inches or more. In some areas the surface layer is stony or cobbly. Permeability is moderately slow in the Tatouche soil. Available water capacity is about 8 inches. The

effective rooting depth is 60 inches or more. Runoff is rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is high.

With the implementation of project design features the proposed new construction/decommissioning would have minimal effects on the soil resource.

### **3.1.1.4 BOTANY**

#### Bureau Special Status Species

Bureau Special Status Plants, Lichens, and Fungi (SSP) include species that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), proposed or candidates for listing, State listed, and Bureau designated sensitive species. For these species, the BLM implements recovery plans, conservation strategies, and approved project design criteria of biological opinions, and ensures that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by the BLM do not contribute to the need for the species to become listed.

Twenty species of fungi are currently listed as Bureau Sensitive, 19 of which are former Survey and Manage species formerly managed under the Survey and Manage program. As Survey and Manage species, pre-disturbance surveys for 17 of these species were determined to be impractical (Category B under Survey and Manage criteria), and two are categorized as having an undetermined status (Categories E and F under Survey and Manage criteria). One of these 20 fungi species (*Rhizopogon clavitisorus*) was not formerly managed under the Survey and Manage program and has a designated status of “Sensitive” on the Medford District special status species list. Due to the nature of survey impracticality for similar *Rhizopogon* species listed under Survey and Manage criteria, *R. clavitisorus* is also treated as a species in which pre-disturbance surveys are impractical. Continued direction from the Oregon State Office indicates that field units are not required to conduct pre-project surveys for these fungi species that now fall within the special status species program (OSO IB-OR-2004-145 Attachment 5).

Surveys for all vascular and nonvascular plants and lichens on the Medford SSP list were conducted in the project area in 2007. Surveys were conducted using the complete survey method along the proposed trail route. Complete surveys are defined as a 100 percent visual examination of the project area; in this case, the proposed trail line and 20 feet on either side.

The proposed trail relocation area is within the range of *Fritillaria gentneri*, a species that is listed as federally endangered. However, no sites are located within the proposed project area. The surveys documented no other occurrences of Bureau Special Status plant species.

#### Noxious Weeds and Introduced Plants

Noxious weeds are generally nonnative plants that cause or are likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Introduced plants are species that are nonnative to the ecosystem under consideration. Introduced plants may adversely affect the proper functioning condition of the ecosystem.

Noxious weeds are common in the project area, primarily located in the open meadows on south to west-facing slopes. The weed sites in the area are mostly associated with previous disturbance regimes in these meadows (i.e. cattle grazing). Two species of noxious weeds in the vicinity of the project area are on the Oregon Department of Agriculture List B. “B” designated weeds are weeds of economic importance which are regionally abundant but may have limited distribution in some counties.

#### Oregon Department of Agriculture List B Noxious Weeds In Project Area

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is a perennial with an extensive root system. This prickly rose-purple flowered plant can produce up to 1500 wind transported seed per flowering shoot, and seed can remain viable in the soil for 20 years. However, seed viability is low, and is not considered to be the primary method of reproduction. Rather, vegetative reproduction contributes to local spread and persistence. The large fibrous taproot can send out lateral roots as deep as three feet below the ground, from which shoots sprout up at frequent intervals. It also regenerates from root fragments less than one inch in length. There are more than 700 sites reported for the Ashland Resource Area, with four sites in the vicinity of the project area. This weed is a native of Eurasia. Detrimental effects include displacement of native

species, decrease of plant diversity, reduced forage, and serves as an alternate host for insects and pathogenic microorganisms that attack various crops. Successful control methods include biological, chemical, cultural, and some limited success with mechanical.

Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) is an annual that flowers July to August with origins in Mediterranean regions. Some seeds have parachute hairs and some don't, resulting in a distribution that produces dense stands and rapid spreading. Yellow starthistle will grow wherever poorly competitive environments exist, predominantly in dry slopes, grasslands, overgrazed rangelands, pastures, edges of cropland, roadsides, and disturbed areas. It is an aggressive, adaptable weed that inhibits the growth of desirable plants in pasture, rangeland, and wasteland. This plant may become a problem in ground where the grass stand is weak. Yellow starthistle is toxic to horses causing "chewing disease".

#### **Alternative 1 – No Action**

Under the No-Action Alternative, there would be no direct effect.

Indirect effects would include unmonitored and uncontrolled spread of known noxious weed populations and nonnative alien plant species within the proposed trail corridor.

#### **Alternative 2-Proposed Action**

##### **Bureau Special Status Species**

The surveys documented no occurrences of Bureau special status plant species within the planning area.

Twenty species of fungi are currently listed as Bureau Sensitive, 19 of which are former Survey and Manage species formerly managed under the Survey and Manage program. As Survey and Manage species, pre-disturbance surveys for 17 of these species were determined to be impractical (Category B under Survey and Manage criteria), and 2 are categorized as having an undetermined status (Categories E and F under Survey and Manage criteria). Continued direction from the Oregon State Office indicates that field units are not required to conduct pre-project surveys for these fungi species that now fall within the special status species program (OSO IB-OR-2004-145 Attachment 5). Bureau policy (Manual Section 6840) would be met by known site protection and large-scale inventory work (strategic surveys) through fiscal year 2004.

##### **Noxious Weeds and Introduced Plants**

With suitable weed habitat increasing as a consequence of the proposed action, project design features must be implemented to avoid or inhibit the spread (via seed or asexual reproduction) of noxious weeds. Particularly vulnerable areas are those adjacent to known populations of noxious weeds and invasive alien species. Additionally, the resulting disturbance in the area will encourage local spread and persistence via asexual, vegetative reproduction.

Project design features are incorporated into the proposed action to minimize spread of noxious weeds and invasive alien plant species due to project-related activity. However, not all weed seed transportation can be excluded from the project area. Weed seed may travel to the project area from adjacent or nearby weed populations. Long distance weed seed transport can also be accomplished by wind, water, and animals.

By project design, noxious weeds will be inventoried and treated by BLM. Inventories will occur the first three years after completion of trail construction and then periodically thereafter. Treatments will be scheduled by priority and will occur based on the potential of the weed population to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health; by project design, the first treatment will occur before trail building is scheduled to begin. Subsequent treatments will be performed as need, budget and resources

allow. With noxious weed inventory and treatment, we expect to avoid weed establishments and spread, as a result of this project.

Also by project design, seeding with native grasses and/or an approved seed mix on highly disturbed soil (trail cut banks and fills, project staging area, etc.) would inhibit the spreading of all non-native species beyond their current scope, and possibly diminish existing populations (i.e. noxious weeds and non-native annual grasses).

### **Alternative 3: Proposed Action With Rehabilitation**

#### **Bureau Special Status Species**

Effects are the same as those described in Alternative 2.

#### **Noxious Weeds and Introduced Plants**

With suitable weed habitat increasing as a consequence of the proposed action, project design features must be implemented to avoid or inhibit the spread (via seed or asexual reproduction) of noxious weeds. Particularly vulnerable areas are those adjacent to known populations of noxious weeds and invasive alien species. Additionally, the resulting disturbance in the area will encourage local spread and persistence of noxious weeds via asexual, vegetative reproduction.

Project design features are incorporated into the proposed action to minimize spread of noxious weeds and invasive alien plant species due to project-related activity. However, not all weed seed transportation can be excluded from the project area. Weed seed may travel to the project area from adjacent or nearby weed populations. Long distance weed seed transport can also be accomplished by wind, water, and animals.

By project design, noxious weeds will be inventoried and treated by BLM. Inventories will occur the first three years after completion of trail construction and then periodically thereafter. Treatments will be scheduled by priority and will occur based on the potential of the weed population to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health; by project design, the first treatment will occur before trail building is scheduled to begin. Subsequent treatments will be performed as need, budget and resources allow. With noxious weed inventory and treatment, we expect to avoid weed establishments and spread, as a result of this project.

Also by project design, seeding with native grasses and/or an approved seed mix on highly disturbed soil (trail cuts and fills, project staging area, rehabilitation areas) would inhibit the spreading of all non-native species beyond their current scope, and possibly diminish existing populations (i.e. noxious weeds and non-native annual grasses).

With suitable weed habitat increasing as a consequence of the proposed action, incorporating the PDFs as listed will inhibit both the potential for weed introduction into a portion of the trail that is currently without noxious weeds, as well as the spread of weeds beyond what is currently present in the area. Implementation of PDFs will also diminish the risk of introducing non-native species and noxious weeds into the area of trail proposed for decommissioning and rehabilitation.

### **3.1.2 WILDLIFE**

Special Status species known or likely to be present in and around the Greensprings Trail project area are displayed in Table 1.

**Table 1:** *Special Status Species*

<b>Species</b>	<b>Species Status</b>
Northern spotted owl ( <i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i> )	FT
Fisher ( <i>Martes pennanti</i> )	FC
Mardon skipper ( <i>Polites mardon</i> )	FC

Species	Species Status
Bald eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	FC
Lewis' woodpecker ( <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> )	BS
White-headed woodpecker ( <i>Picoides albolarvatus</i> )	BS
Pallid bat ( <i>Antrozous pallidus</i> )	BS
Fringed myotis ( <i>Myotis thysanodes</i> )	BS
Northwestern pond turtle ( <i>Actinemys marmorata marmorata</i> )	BS
Foothill yellow-legged frog ( <i>Rana boylei</i> )	BS
Coronis fritallary ( <i>Speyeria coronis coronis</i> )	BS
Siskiyou short-horned grasshopper ( <i>Chloealtis aspasma</i> )	BS
Oregon shoulderband snail ( <i>Helmithoglypta hertleini</i> )	BS
Chase sideband snail ( <i>Monadenia chaceana</i> )	BS

FT - Federal Threatened  
FC - Federal Candidate  
BS - Bureau Sensitive

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently issued interim guidance for meeting BLM's responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Executive Order 13186. Both the Act and the EO promote the conservation of migratory bird populations. The interim guidance was transmitted through Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. 2008-050. The IM relies on two lists prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in determining which species are to receive special attention in land management activities; the lists are *Bird Species of Conservation Concern* (BCC) found in various Bird Conservation Regions and *Game Birds Below Desired Condition* (GBBDC).

**Table 2: Bird Species of Conservation Concern**  
BCC - Birds of Conservation Concern

Species	Species Status
Black-throated gray warbler ( <i>Dendroica nigrescens</i> )	BCC
Flammulated owl ( <i>Otus flammeolus</i> )	BCC
Lewis' woodpecker ( <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> )	BCC
Grasshopper sparrow ( <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> )	BCC
Red-naped sapsucker ( <i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i> )	BCC
Williamson's sapsucker ( <i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i> )	BCC
White-headed woodpecker ( <i>Picoides albolarvatus</i> )	BCC
Northern goshawk ( <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> )	BCC
Olive-sided flycatcher ( <i>Contopus cooperi</i> )	BCC
American peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> )	BCC
Rufous hummingbird ( <i>Selasphorus rufus</i> )	BCC
Mourning dove ( <i>Zenaida macroura</i> )	BCC
Band-tailed pigeon ( <i>Columba fasciata</i> )	GBBDC

An evaluation of species listed in both Tables 1 and 2 was conducted to determine whether the proposed action of re-routing the PCT would result in significant impacts to these species or their habitats.

This project is proposed to take place in Critical Spotted Owl Habitat (CHU OR-38). The nearest known spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) nest is more than two miles from the project area. While suitable habitat does exist, this trail construction would not alter any of the primary constituent elements of spotted owl habitat.

Habitat for the Pacific fisher also exists in the area. Like the spotted owl, the fisher would not be affected by this action and any habitat suitable for use by this species before trail construction will still be suitable after the completion of the project.

The red-naped sapsucker and White-headed woodpecker commonly use dead conifers, hollow trees or standing snags for nesting. Since there is not a plan to remove these structures in the proposed action there should be no effect to either of these species. There is one known Bald Eagle nest approximately two miles north of the project area. No habitat suitable for foraging by this species exists in the project area. The distance from the project area to the nearest foraging location makes use of potential nest locations in the project area unlikely. Because physical disturbance from this project will be limited to the use of hand tools along the soil surface there will not be significant impacts to any other avian special status species (SSS), Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC), or Game Birds Below Desired Condition (GBBDC) listed species.

The project's trail route avoids many of the meadows that are strewn throughout the area. Mardon Skipper (*Polites mardon*) butterflies have been found in wet meadows within one-half mile of the project area. Adult skippers are known to emerge between May and July and utilize several plants species, which are important to the life cycle of this species. These include Vetch (*Vicia spp.*), Sego lily (*Calochortus spp.*) and Idaho Fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*). While there have been no documented sightings of Siskiyou short-horned grasshoppers (*Chloealtis aspasma*) near the proposed action area they are associated with meadow ecosystems. Females are known to lay eggs in the pith of elderberry (*Sambucus caerulea*) plants (Rehn and Hebard 1919). The Franklin's bumblebee (*Bombus franklini*) and Coronis fritillary (*Speyeria coronis coronis*) are associated with grassland/herbaceous habitats. Portions of the proposed trail pass through this type of habitat. There have been no historic sightings of either species in or around the project area. In any given meadow, impacts from the proposed action will be limited to the new trailbed and the area immediately adjacent to this trailbed. This will only impact a very small percentage of any particular meadow. Due to the limited scope of these impacts and the mobility of these species, effects on any of these species will be minimal.

The proposed action falls within the range of the Northwestern Pond Turtle (*Actinemys marmorata marmorata*) and Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana boylei*). There have been no known sightings of these species in the area. The proposed action will not occur in habitat suitable for either of these species.

The Chase sideband snail (*Monadenia chaceana*) and Oregon shoulderband snail (*Helmithoglypta hertleini*) are associated with habitat types which are present in the action area. The limited scope of this project will not result in significant effects to these species.

#### **Great Gray Owl**

There is one historic great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*) core area within ¼ mile of the proposed action area. Great gray owl surveys were conducted in 2007 for the Sampson Cove timber sale project. First year surveys documented several male responses one female and a possible juvenile. Second year surveys are currently being conducted. Manual trail construction is not considered to be a habitat disturbing activity for great gray owls.

### **3.1.3 RECREATION AND VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM)**

In 2006 an Optimal Location Review (OLR) was completed on a 36.5-mile segment of the PCT in Jackson County, Oregon. By relocating the trail as proposed users will be provided with breath-taking views of the valley below, wide open meadows, and oak savannah which are bypassed using the current route. Additionally, it provides an ideal camping location, a feeling of solitude and being above the land.

There are no VRM impacts anticipated as a result of the trail at this location.

### **3.1.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

The entire project area was surveyed. The new trail location will avoid locations of any known cultural resources.

### **3.2 ADVERSE EFFECTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY**

No aspects of the project have been identified as having the potential to significantly and adversely impact public health or safety. All operations on BLM-administered lands are required to meet Occupational Safety and Health Association regulations for worker and public safety.

### **3.3 POTENTIAL FOR ADVERSE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

The ID Team reviewed this project for the potential for significant cumulative environmental effects considering past, current, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. With the minimal impact project design and the implementation of project design features, only minor effects are anticipated at the project site, and no effects are anticipated that would extend beyond the project site as a result of implementing this project. Therefore, there is no potential for this project to contribute to significant adverse cumulative effects.

### **3.4 EXECUTIVE ORDER 11988 (FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT) & EXECUTIVE ORDER 11990 (PROTECTION OF WETLANDS)**

The project is located on and near a ridge area away from any wetlands or streams. There would be no adverse effects involving wetlands or floodplains.

### **3.5 COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW, REGULATION, OR POLICY**

The Proposed Action and alternative are in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Clean Water Act.

Project design features are included to reduce the potential for this project to contribute to the introduction, existence, or spread of: Federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act); or invasive non-native species; Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species).

This project was reviewed for the potential for disproportionately high or adverse effects on minority or low income populations; no adverse impacts to minority or low income populations would occur. *Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)*.

This project would not result in restricting access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. No sites have been identified in the project area. Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites).

This project would have no effect on Indian Trust Resources as none exist in the project area.

## **4 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Scoping has occurred for this PCT reroute project. Letters were sent March 6, 2008 to adjacent landowners and other interested organizations, tribes, and individuals. The project appeared in the Ashland Resource Area's Schedule of Proposed Actions published in Medford's Messenger (BLM's quarterly newsletter) in the spring of 2008. A copy of this EA is available upon request from the Ashland Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, 3040 Biddle Rd., Medford, OR 97504, (541) 618-2245.

This EA was distributed to adjacent landowners and to the following agencies, organizations, companies, and tribes:

**Organizations and Agencies**

The National Center for Conservation Science and Policy  
Wildwood Consulting  
Wildkat LLC  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
The Wilderness Society  
Rogue Valley Audubon Society  
Rogue Group Sierra Club  
Pilot Rock Land Association  
Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group  
Oregon Department of Forestry, SW Oregon District  
NOAA Fisheries  
Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Greensprings Clearing  
Friends of the Greensprings  
Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument  
Southern Oregon Lands Conservancy  
Oregon Wild  
Pacific Forest Trust, Inc.  
Rogue Endurance Riders  
Ashland Woodlands and Trails  
Oregon Equestrian Trails  
Jackson County Horseman's Association  
Southern Oregon Equestrian

**Federally Recognized Tribes**

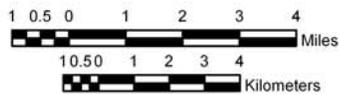
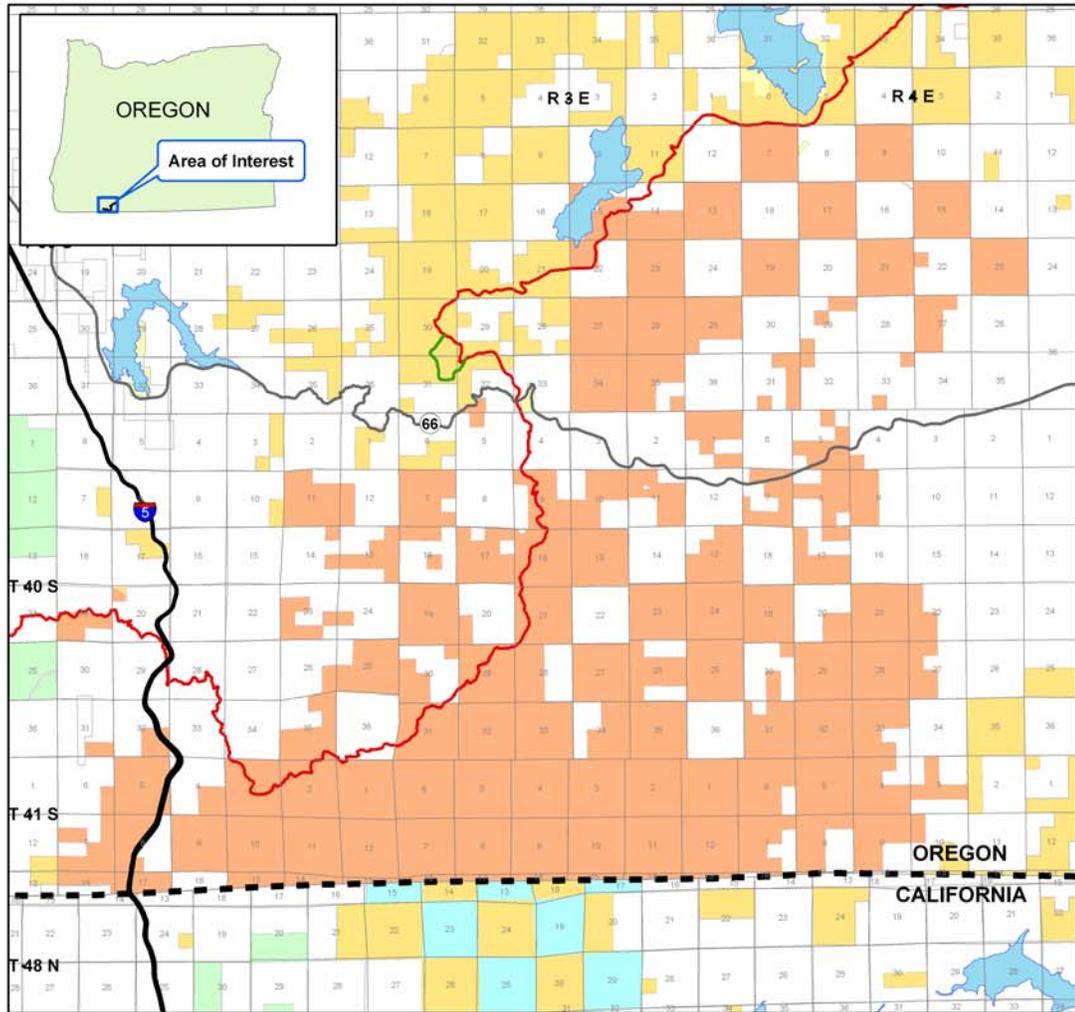
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians  
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
Confederated Tribes of Siletz  
The Klamath Tribes  
Quartz Valley Indian Reservation (Shasta Tribe)

## References Cited

- Oregon Department of Agriculture, Plant Division. 2008. Plant Division, Noxious Weed Control, Oregon State Noxious Weed List [WWW page]. URL <http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/statelist2.shtml>
- Pacific Crest Trail Association. 2002. Trail history [WWW page]. URL [http://www.pcta.org/about\\_trail/history.asp](http://www.pcta.org/about_trail/history.asp)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 1982. *Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan*. Pacific Northwest Region, Portland, OR.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 1994. *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standards and Guidelines for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*. Portland, OR.
- United States Department of the Interior (USDI) Bureau of Land Management. October 1994. *Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement*.
- U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI) Bureau of Land Management, Medford District Office. 1995. *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*. Medford, OR.
- United States Department of the Interior (USDI) Bureau of Land Management. July 2007. *Record of Decision (ROD) To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*. Oregon State Office. Portland, OR.
- USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management. 1994. *Final SEIS On Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan)*. Regional Ecosystem Office, Portland, OR.

## **APPENDIX A: MAPS**

# Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Vicinity Map



United States Department of Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Medford District Office  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, Oregon 97504



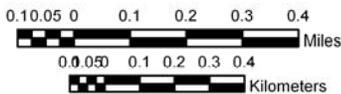
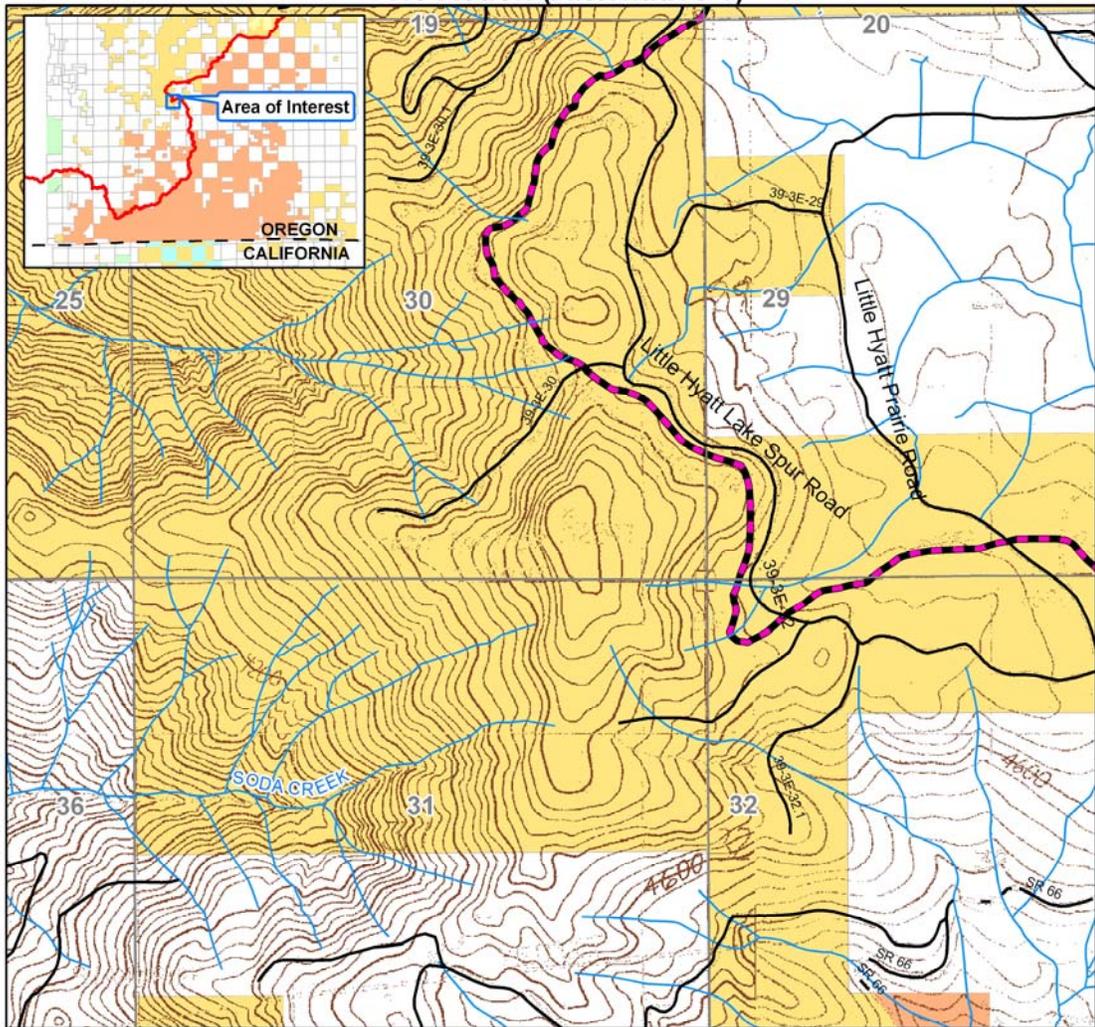
## LEGEND

- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Reroute
- Interstate 5
- Highway 66
- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
- Lakes
- Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
- Non-Federal Land
- Other BLM Administered Land
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Forest Service
- State

MAP 1

kminor GIS\PCT Reroute Green Mountain\Green Mountain Reroute Map 1.mxd

# Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Green Mountain Reroute No Action (Alternative 1)



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Bureau of Land Management  
Medford District Office  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, Oregon 97504



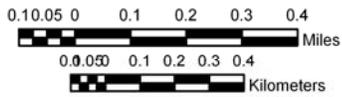
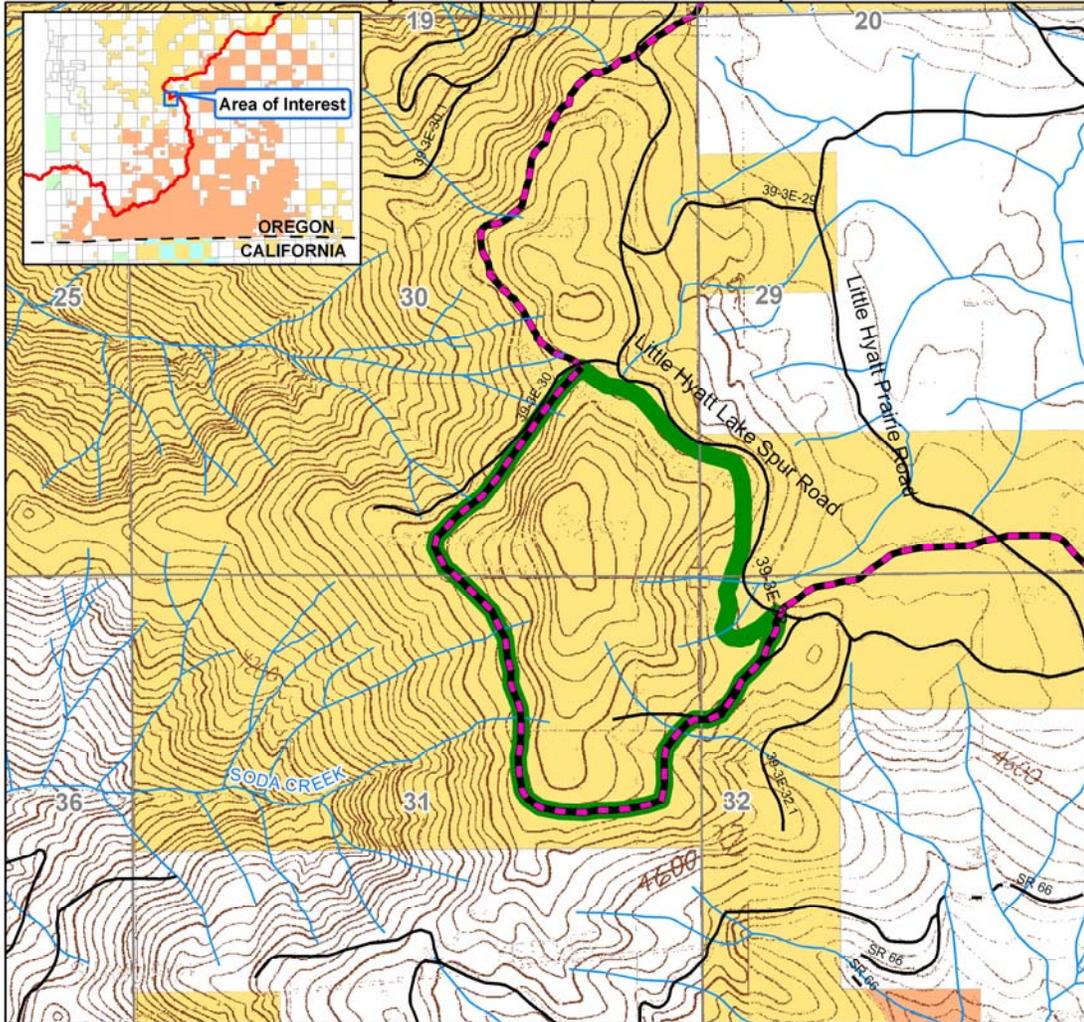
### LEGEND

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Roads</li> <li> Streams</li> <li> Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail</li> <li> Lakes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument</li> <li> Non-Federal Land</li> <li> Other BLM Administered Land</li> <li> Bureau of Reclamation</li> <li> U.S. Forest Service</li> <li> State</li> </ul>
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**MAP 2**

kminor D:GIS\ICT Reroute Green Mountain\Green Mountain Reroute Alt 1\_Map 2.mxd

# Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Green Mountain Reroute Proposed Action (Alternative 2)



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Medford, Oregon 97504



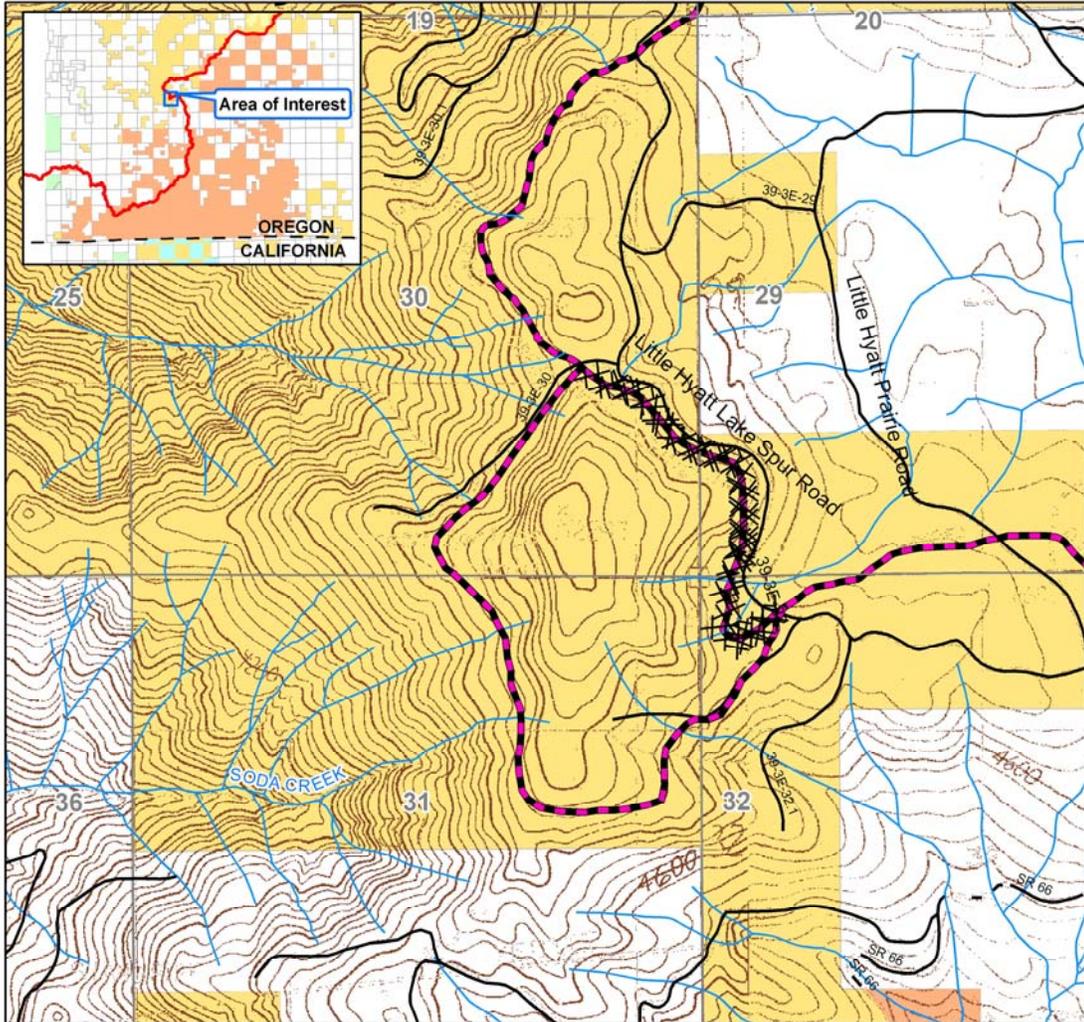
### LEGEND

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Roads</li> <li> Streams</li> <li> Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail</li> <li> Loop Trail</li> <li> Lakes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument</li> <li> Non-Federal Land</li> <li> Other BLM Administered Land</li> <li> Bureau of Reclamation</li> <li> U.S. Forest Service</li> <li> State</li> </ul>
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**MAP 3**

kminor D:GIS\PCT Reroute Green Mountain\Green Mountain Reroute Map 2.mxd

# Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Green Mountain Reroute Alternative 3



United States Department of Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Medford District Office  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, Oregon 97504



LEGEND	
	Section of PCNST to Decommission
	Roads
	Streams
	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
	Lakes
	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
	Non-Federal Land
	Other BLM Administered Land
	Bureau of Reclamation
	U.S. Forest Service
	State

MAP 4

kminor D:GIS\PCT Reroute Green Mountain\Green Mountain Reroute Map 3.mxd