

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument



**National Landscape Conservation System
FY 2009 Annual Manager's Report**

Introduction

- Name: Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM)
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- Field Manager/Monument Manager: John Gerritsma
- Assistant Monument Manager: Howard Hunter
- Field, District and State Office: Ashland Resource Area, Medford District, Oregon/Washington State Office
- Establishing Authority: Presidential Proclamation 7318, June 9, 2000
- Acreage: 53,838
- Estimated Annual Visitation: 337,091 (53,492 at Hyatt Lake Recreation Area and 15,324 on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail).



Indian paintbrush in a rocky meadow with Pilot Rock in the background.

General Information

- The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is located in southwestern Oregon. The presidential proclamation reserved the CSNM in recognition of its remarkable ecology and to protect a diverse range of biological, geological, aquatic, archeological, and historic objects. The resources found in the monument, both individually and collectively, comprise a unique and diverse ecosystem.
- The richness of the plant community is due to the monument's geographical location at the meeting of the Cascade, Klamath and Eastern Cascade Slopes Ecoregions. Evolution, long-term climatic change, and natural geological processes (volcanism, mass wasting, erosion, etc.) operating across geological time continue to contribute to the high ecological richness of the area.

- The monument incorporated other overlapping designations including: the Scotch Creek Research Natural Area (RNA), Oregon Gulch RNA, the Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA), the Mariposa Lily Botanical Area, and the Jenny Creek Tier 1 Key Watershed (in Oregon). Recently, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 designated 24,100 acres in the southern portion of the monument as the Soda Mountain Wilderness. The entirety of the monument is in Jackson County, and is surrounded by public and private land. The Oregon-California state line serves as the monument’s southern boundary.



Camp Creek in the Soda Mountain Wilderness.

- Located in the northern corner of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, the 745-acre Hyatt Lake Recreation Area provides opportunities for camping, hiking, fishing, and boating. It is the only developed recreation area within the CSNM. The recreation area includes three developed campgrounds and several day use areas. Fees collected at the Hyatt Lake Recreation Area have doubled since 2004.



Camping at Hyatt Lake Campground.

1. Natural and Heritage Resources Conditions

a. Natural Resource Trends

Grazing Lease Donation and Termination Program

- The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11, March 30, 2009) authorized a voluntary lease donation program for grazing leases within and adjacent to the

monument which effectively eliminated 93 percent of the authorized grazing within the monument. The cessation of grazing on these lands is expected to restore ecological processes and natural resource conditions that have been influenced by livestock in the CSNM.

Soda Mountain Wilderness

- The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11, March 30, 2009) designated 24,100 acres of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument as wilderness. Designation of the Soda Mountain Wilderness alters how some of the area has traditionally been used. Human activities are now generally restricted to non-motorized/non-mechanized recreation (such as backpacking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, etc.), scientific research, and other non-invasive activities.
- Although many roads within the new wilderness were previously closed to motorized and mechanized vehicles by the Presidential proclamation (7318) establishing the CSNM, there are roads that lead to popular designations, such as Pilot Rock Trailhead, Bocard Point, and dispersed camping and hunting areas that were open prior to wilderness designation. Seventeen roads (approximately 10 miles) that access the wilderness have been barricaded with earth berms or large rocks. Reduced vehicular access is expected to reduce erosion associated with road use during wet weather and reduce the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.



Earth berm barricade preventing vehicular access into the new Soda Mountain Wilderness.

Wildfire Suppression

- The BLM collaborated with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to modify the wildfire suppression procedures for the Soda Mountain Wilderness portion of the CSNM, adopting the Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) for wilderness.

Land Acquisition

- The BLM is pursuing opportunities to acquire tracts of privately owned land from willing sellers within the CSNM boundary. Approximately 40 percent of the land within the CSNM is privately-owned. Acquisition will create a more cohesive, fully protected landscape.

- Since the monument was proclaimed in 2000, the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) acquired 4,750 acres of private forest lands from willing sellers. These lands include significant sections of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and stream corridors along Keene Creek and Jenny Creek. They will provide critical connectivity between protected late-successional forest habitat areas. In many places, acquiring several of these parcels will provide legal public access where none currently exists.
- In 2008, Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) were used to purchase 890 acres of PFT's properties for inclusion in the CSNM (Phase I). In 2009, an additional \$890,000 was included in BLM's budget to acquire an additional 900 acres (Phase II). For 2010, an additional \$1,000,000 was appropriated to continue the acquisition of PFT properties (Phase III).

Conservation Easement

- The BLM is near completion of a conservation easement that would protect nearly a one-mile segment of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail within the CSNM. Both the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) and the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) are assisting with the project which will preserve and maintain conservation values, include restoration of native species and vegetative communities, reduce degradation, and protect scenic resources. In addition, the proposed conservation easement area includes the widening of an existing BLM trail easement from a total width of twenty (20) feet to a total width of two-hundred feet (200') in order to better protect trail values.

Illegal Off-Road Vehicular Use

- Illegal off-road vehicular travel use continues to be a problem, especially in the newly designated wilderness and during hunting season. Monitoring and reports from adjacent landowners indicate that off-road and vehicular travel on closed/barricaded roads occurs on a regular basis.

Powerline Maintenance

- The BLM coordinated with Pacific Power and Light representatives to ensure a quality job was done on the power line maintenance throughout the CSNM.



Powerline maintenance in the CSNM.

b. Heritage Resource Trends

- Heritage resource conditions are stable, but additional cultural resource surveys are needed.

c. Land Health Assessments

- Land health assessments were accomplished through annual monitoring of various metrics of land health, including the following:

Hydrology

- **Precipitation Measurement**
Monthly and annual summary of rainfall is collected near the stream gauging station on Jenny Creek.
- **Stream Gauging Station**
Water levels (stream stage) are recorded at the stream gauging station on Jenny Creek. Long-term streamflow regimes are determined based on monthly and annual summary information for each water year.
- **Summer Stream Temperature Monitoring Program**
Summer stream temperatures are recorded at 13 locations in the CSNM. This information is used to determine the long-term recovery of Clean Water Act, section 303(d) water quality limited streams.
- **Storm Event Grab Sampling**
Turbidity, conductivity, pH, water temperature, air temperature, snowpack and discharge is sampled during high streamflow events at 15 sites within the CSNM as opportunities arise.

Noxious Weeds/Invasive Plants

- **Noxious Weed Monitoring**
Approximately 225 acres within the CSNM were monitored for noxious weeds to determine presence/absence, extent, and treatment effectiveness.
- **Invasive Plant Monitoring**
Invasive annual grasses were surveyed/inventoried in proposed fuels treatment units in the wildland-urban interface. Invasive annual grasses were generally found along edges of units at previously disturbed property boundaries, and along roads and powerlines. The BLM assisted in the collection of vegetation data in monitoring plots for these proposed fuels treatment units. These plots will be used to monitor/determine if invasive grasses expand into units following treatments.

d. Inventory

- Cultural resource surveys were completed for specific projects within the monument including several rights-of-way authorizations and a demonstration fuel treatment project along the Greensprings Highway (wildland urban interface).
- Inventoried existing structures and facilities (e.g. range improvements, roads, culverts, and hunter's camps) within the new wilderness and created a geospatial database of the information.



Culvert in the wilderness.



Cattleguard in the wilderness.



Facilities and structures within the Soda Mountain Wilderness.

- Inventoried water developments (range improvements, fire suppression) within the monument and created a geospatial database of the information. This inventory will be used for future projects to restore hydrological function where water developments are no longer needed due to recent grazing lease terminations.



Water developments in the CSNM.

e. Restoration

Noxious Weeds

- Approximately 976 acres within the CSNM were treated for noxious weeds. CSNM weed treatments focused on small satellite infestations of Canada thistle, yellow starthistle and Dyer's woad. Many satellite Canada thistle infestations that numbered in the hundreds a few years ago have been reduced to none-few plants. Treatments were

continued in some large and dense infestations: yellow starthistle at the Mariposa Lily Botanical Area; yellow starthistle at Agate Flat; yellow starthistle and Dyer's woad at the former Box-O Ranch; and Canada thistle near Soda Mountain.

- The former Box-O Ranch now lies within the Soda Mountain wilderness. With the starthistle crop five times what it was last year at this location, it was necessary to find a way to dispose of 400-500 bags of starthistle that was compatible with wilderness guidance. The bags of starthistle were removed using a helicopter and a long line. A Minimum Requirements Decision Guide was prepared to assess the impacts to wilderness values from this operation.
- The BLM cooperated with landowners inside the Soda Mountain Wilderness to treat trouble spots of yellow starthistle and Dyer's woad around private properties in the heart of the remote Diversity Emphasis Area.
- However, there is still a significant amount of weeds to treat within the monument. Access into the Soda Mountain Wilderness to treat significant populations of starthistle remains challenging.



Helicopter removal of starthistle in the Soda Mountain Wilderness.

Native Plant Seed Collections

- The Medford District maintains a native plant seed inventory of approximately 20 species appropriate for restoration and rehabilitation projects in the CSNM. In 2009, nearly 30 native plant species were collected in the CSNM under the Seeds of Success program for long-term native seed conservation. The National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, Colorado is managing storage of these collections, and the USDA-ARS National Plant Germ-Plasm System is maintaining working collections for distribution to researchers for native plant materials development. Approximately five species were collected but retained at the District for

future seed increase for rehabilitation and restoration projects. Approximately five forb species are under production at the Plant Material Center, Corvallis OR, and two species of grasses (three acres of Romer's fescue and three acres of California Brome) are contracted for seed increase.

Pine Plantation Restoration

- The BLM is working on restoring 1,500 acres of young pine plantations in the CSNM which are not currently on developmental paths that will provide adequate or desirable late-successional habitat. These stands are primarily comprised of even-aged pine trees that were planted following past clearcutting.
- The BLM contracted for botanical threatened and endangered species surveys this year across the 1,500 acres of potential restoration.
- Treatment prescriptions are being developed to improve stand resiliency to withstand disturbance events and to restore historic structural and compositional levels of functional late-successional forests.

2. Recreation Facilities, Roads, and Trails Conditions

a. Overview

- The facilities in the CSNM are aging. Some upgrades to the Hyatt Lake Campground were made in 2008, but significant renovations are still needed. The sewer system at Hyatt Lake Campground has been cited for EPA violations.
- Annual maintenance of the road system has generally been meeting the needs of the BLM and users.

b. Construction

Hyatt Lake Recreation Area

- Contracts for a new boat docks and new siding for all of the buildings at the Hyatt Lake Campground are complete and awaiting funding and implementation.



Animal-chewed siding on the administration building and sinking boat dock at Hyatt Lake Campground.

- A new septic system to address EPA violations for the Hyatt Lake Campground is being designed and funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).
- Funding for the other improvements is needed and has been requested for 2011.

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT)

- The Pacific Crest Trail Association coordinated trail crews from AmeriCorp Northwest Service to complete over a mile of new trail construction on a relocated section of the PCT just outside the CSNM.

Soda Mountain Wilderness

- Seventeen roads (approximately 10 miles) that access the Soda Mountain Wilderness have been barricaded with earth berms or large rocks.

c. Maintenance

Road Maintenance

- Repair of the drainage on the road to the top of Soda Mountain has been funded and the contract has been awarded. Crushed rock surfacing will be added to create safer road access to the fire lookout tower and communication site using Title II funds. The road is located adjacent to the Soda Mountain Wilderness on both sides and a gate will be installed near the bottom of the road at a safe turn-around location.
- Road maintenance was accomplished as scheduled, based on need and available funding.

Trail Maintenance

- Approximately 19 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail passes through the CSNM. The entire 19 miles of the PCT was cleared of windfall this year. The work was completed in partnership with the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA).
- The PCTA sponsored trail maintenance with volunteer groups.

d. Signage

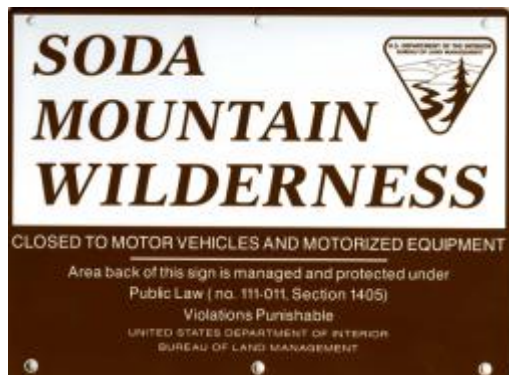
Soda Mountain Wilderness

- The recent designation of the Soda Mountain Wilderness (March 30, 2009) necessitated the closure of 17 roads that access the wilderness. The barricaded roads were signed to indicate Soda Mountain Wilderness beyond the sign. Large portal signs were posted at key access points explaining the new designation.



New Soda Mountain Wilderness signs.

- Boundary signs were designed and produced for the new wilderness. The signs have been installed on a large portion of the wilderness boundary.



Wilderness boundary signs.

Snowmobile Routes

- Snowmobile routes that will be used this winter have been signed. Routes previously used that will be closed this year were also posted with “Closed to Snowmobile” signs.

3. Outreach, Environmental Education, Interpretation, and Volunteers

a. Outreach

- Visitors to the CSNM access information by contacting the Medford District BLM Office, stopping by the self-serve visitor center located in the heart of the monument, or via the CSNM website. As the only developed recreation site within the CSNM, the Hyatt Lake Recreation Area is also a logical point of contact. Informational signs and the entrance kiosk often provide visitors with information about the CSNM.

- The new CSNM website went live early in 2009. It provides information on establishment of the monument, NLCS, management of the CSNM, recreation opportunities, visitor information, links to partners, and a large photo gallery. An updated CSNM map showing the new wilderness was recently posted to the website.



New Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument website.

b. Visitor Center

- The self-serve CSNM Information Center continues to be cooperatively managed under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the CSNM Friends' group and provides visitors with brochures; maps; planning documents; educational displays on the area's natural and cultural history; information regarding multiple-use activities; hiking/recreational opportunities; awareness of private property issues; and prohibited activities/road closures.



The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Information Center on the Greensprings.

c. Environmental Education

- The interpretive specialist position for the CSNM was filled at the end of this year. He will work to improve communication with internal and external partners, visitor information, and continue working on environmental education programs offered for the CSNM.
- A trust has given the Friends' group \$20,000 as a donation to be dedicated to environmental education programs.
- In the absence of an interpretive specialist, BLM contracted with a local individual to begin to develop a seventh-eighth grade curriculum aligned with both CSNM interpretive themes and state education standards.

Pinehurst School Education Partnership

- The BLM and the Pinehurst School created a science teaching partnership where the BLM provides natural resource specialists to present a lesson from their discipline, followed by a hands-on, field exercise where the students can use what they had learned in the classroom. Lessons presented by the BLM were designed to integrate with the Pinehurst School teacher's 4th through 8th grade curriculum. The following science/biology study units were presented in 2009:

Biological Monitoring

The Biological Monitoring study unit was a three-day course on macroinvertebrates. The first day was a macroinvertebrate identification class. Students learned how to identify bugs and their pollution tolerance. This was followed by a field day to the former Box-O Ranch where students collected and preserved macroinvertebrates. On the final day of the course, the students identified and assigned a numerical value to the macroinvertebrates which allowed them to make an assessment of the water quality in Jenny Creek.

Fire Regime

Fire history and fire regime were presented to the students followed by a field exercise in a proposed fuels treatment area. Students made plots which consisted of tree identification and calculating tree density. Students also used an increment borer on a tree and learned how to determine tree age.

Wildlife Management

Wildlife management and identification were taught in the classroom followed by a field trip to the woods. Students assisted in setting up a wildlife camera in order to learn what wildlife inhabit the area. The class will take a computer out every two weeks to check the images taken by the camera.

d. Interpretation

- The Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument continue to support interpretation and educational efforts through cooperatively managing and maintaining the visitor center on the Greensprings.
- The Friends' group, while still supportive of interpretive and educational efforts, is less cohesive and needs revitalization. The new interpretive specialist will work on strengthening involvement from the Friends' group.

e. Volunteers

- The Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) formed volunteer groups that adopted segments of the PCT to maintain. PCTA also sponsored trail maintenance days.

4. Science

a. CSNM Science and Monitoring Network

- The BLM has created a CSNM Science and Monitoring Network with scientists and other researchers to better coordinate and communicate research and monitoring in the CSNM. The group is sharing study plans and results prior to and after the field season. Additional work is planned on refining the CSNM Science and Monitoring Strategy. The current partners in ongoing research and monitoring projects include: Darlene Southworth Ph.D. emeritus Southern Oregon University (SOU); Pat Muir, Ph.D. Oregon State University (OSU) Department of Botany and Plant Pathology; Sam Wasser, Ph.D. University of Washington; Doug Barrett, Westside Ecological; Jenniffer Bakke; Forest Capital Partners; Tom Kaye, Ph.D., Institute For Applied Ecology; and the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA).

b. 2009 Accomplishments

Oak Woodland, Shrubland, and Grassland Composition and Structural Surveys

- In partnership with Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR, non-conifer plant community surveys including species composition, hardwood structure (branching and diameter-at-breast-height, and stand age) will facilitate understanding of past fire behavior on hardwood-dominated ecosystems of the monument.
- Vegetation communities were sampled and field data was collected in 2009. Statistical analysis was completed to stratify unique non-conifer plant communities within the CSNM. A geospatial database was created. A final research paper is expected in 2010.

Fuels Reduction in Oak woodlands, Shrublands and Grasslands of Southwestern Oregon and the Consequences for Native Plants and Invasion by Non-native Species

- In partnership with Oregon State University and Oregon Natural Information Center, Corvallis, OR, this research project evaluated the following:
 1. Consequences of fuel reduction techniques and wildfire for native plant communities and species of concern.
 2. Relationship of fuels reduction methods to invasion of non-native plants.
 3. Consequences of seeding treated areas with native grass seed and invasion of non-native species.
 4. Similarities and differences in response among the various vegetation types.
 5. Fuel models that result from various treatments.
 6. Spatial description of historic vegetation communities based on General Land Office surveys.
- Multiple research papers are expected in 2010 on plant community response to fuel reduction methods; fuel models; rare species response; invasive species response; comparison of historic vegetation communities to current vegetation communities.

Franklin's Bumble Bee Population and Persistence Monitoring

- In partnership with the University of California, Davis, CA, population and habitat monitoring of bee presence/ absence; population trends, habitat requirements; threats and other critical parameters that affect population persistence and viability is ongoing. Franklin's bumble bee is a rare (Bureau Sensitive Species), local endemic bumble bee.



Franklin's bumble bee female worker. Photograph by Pete Schroeder.

- The species (*Bombus franklini*) appears to be declining precipitously since 1998. No Franklin's bumble bees were observed in 2007, 2008, or 2009.

Population Monitoring and Effects of Grazing on Greene's Mariposa Lily

- In partnership with the Institute for Applied Ecology, Corvallis, OR, the long-term impacts of cattle utilization, population demographics and other threats on Greene's mariposa lily (*Calochortus greenei*), a rare endemic to Southern Oregon and Northern California, was studied.
- The objectives of the study were to 1) describe population monitoring methods and plant community assessments for Greene's mariposa lily and associated plant communities on the CSNM; 2) summarize population trends and plant community data for the sixth year of study; 3) evaluate influences of enclosures on Greene's mariposa lily and associated plant communities.



Greene's mariposa lily (Calochortus greenei).

- An interim report was completed in 2009 describing persistence and viability of the species, population demographics over time, trends, and threats. The study provides data for the development of a conservation strategy and management guidelines for this species.

5. Partnerships

a. Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

- The CSNM Information Center is jointly managed under an MOU. The BLM and the CSNM Friends group collaboratively create and maintain displays, exhibits, and other media designed to orient and inform the CSNM visitor and produce joint newsletters.

b. Pacific Crest Trail Association

- The BLM works directly with the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) to enhance the user experience and trail condition of the PCT. In 2009, the PCTA coordinated nearly 1,500 hours of trail work. This included trail crews from Americorp Northwest Service which completed over a mile of new construction on a relocated section of the trail (1,200 hours) just outside the CSNM, the Ashland Woodlands and Trails Association (200 hours) and Rogue Endurance Riders (75 hours) which completed tread maintenance and brushing along the BLM section.



Photo taken near the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail at Pilot Rock.

c. Pacific Forest Trust

- A not-for-profit conservation organization, the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT), acquired 4,750 acres of private in-holdings from willing landowners within the administrative boundary of the CSNM to conserve, protect, and restore the monument. In 2008 and 2009, Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) were provided to acquire approximately 1,800 acres of their ownership to the BLM. Another 800-900 acres will be acquired with the 2010 LWCF. The district is administering the acquisition process.
- The PFT has launched their *Campaign to Complete the Vision* (see http://www.pacificforest.org/CSNM%20PDFS/CSNM_Web_Brochure.pdf).
- The PFT is also assisting the BLM and the PCTA in acquiring a conservation easement along a nearly one-mile section of the PCT near where the PCT crosses the Greensprings Highway.

d. CSNM Science and Monitoring Network

- See Science Section, Part 4 above.

e. CSNM Liaison/Oregon Department of Forestry

- The CSNM Liaison/ODF Forest Protection Officer has worked directly with the BLM interdisciplinary team and has acted as a liaison with the community.

- This position has provided technical support for the implementation of National Fire Plan grants on strategic private lands and is assisting in designing the implementation of the fuels treatments in the CSNM Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- It also provided assistance for landowners in the monument with fire prevention, completing home-site fire surveys, monitoring all ongoing prescribed fire treatments, and educating landowners in the safe and proper use of fire in their landscape.

f. CSNM Wildland Interface Fuels Modification Project

- In partnership with CC Patterson Associates and KS Wild, this project will plan a collaborative, science-based wildland interface fuels treatment process on a 31-acre site within the CSNM. The project will engage the input of adjacent landowners, conservation stakeholders, professional biologists, practitioners and fire ecologists to develop a vegetation treatment process that is focused on maintenance or improvement of the ecological health of the landscape while reducing the likelihood of high-severity wildfire in the rural residential interface.
- The project is intended to provide a template for a collaborative vegetation management process that could be used effectively throughout the potentially treatable portions of the interface area within the monument.



Stand proposed for vegetation treatment in the wildland interface of the CSNM.

g. C.A.S.T. for Kids/Free Fishing Day

- The BLM partnered with the C.A.S.T. for Kids event for disabled and disadvantaged children. The event requires working with a large group of sponsors and many partners including Down Syndrome Association of Southern Oregon, Easter Seals, ARC of Jackson County, Pacific NW 4-Wheel Drive Association, Klamath Country Fly Casters, Crater Bass Club, Rogue Flyfishers, Rogue River Steelheaders, and Hyatt Lake Resort.



Salmon Tent at C.A.S.T. for Kids day at Hyatt Lake Campground.

- The BLM cooperates with the United Hunters and Sportsmen Association Inc. to host Free Fishing Day annually at Hyatt Lake Campground.



Free Fishing Day at Hyatt Lake Campground.

6. Planning and Business Practices

a. Planning

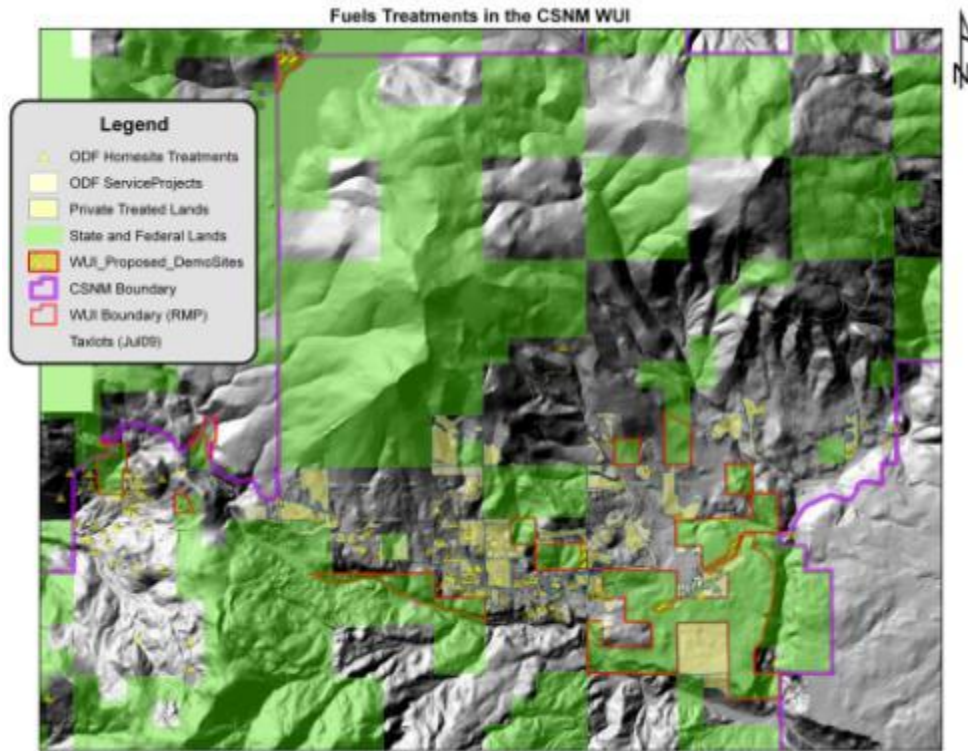
Appeal of CSNM Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan

- The Medford District BLM successfully negotiated a settlement of an appeal related to transportation management and road closures approved in the CSNM ROD/RMP (August 2008). On September 18, 2008, a group of environmental organizations filed a Notice of Appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). The organizations contested certain implementation-level road closure decisions made in the Resource Management Plan for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM RMP).
- The Medford District engaged in direct negotiations with the appellants, and in late Fiscal Year 2009, the District and the appellants reached a settlement agreement that the BLM would conduct a transportation management process that would include specific purpose and need statements in the NEPA document and would follow a set of deadlines culminating in a decision by September of 2013 (assuming availability of funding). This agreement was executed in early October of 2009, and was formally accepted by the IBLA on October 21. The settlement agreement provides a win-win solution for the BLM and the appellants in

that it addresses the appellants concerns while also giving the BLM the flexibility and impetus to complete valuable transportation management planning in the monument.

Fuels Treatment Planning in the Wildland-Urban Interface

- The BLM initiated the planning for a fuels reduction demonstration project in the wildland-urban interface in the CSNM. Four 10-acre units were proposed for manual fuels reduction treatments. The BLM has been working with the public and interested groups on refining the proposal to address specific monument concerns.



Wildland-urban interface completed fuels reduction treatments and proposed BLM demonstration fuels treatments.

7. Manager's Corner

Omnibus Public Land Management Act

The monument landscape has evolved over the past year with the passage of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, Public Law No. 111-011, designating the Soda Mountain Wilderness and authorizing the voluntary lease donation program which effectively resulted in the elimination of 93 percent of the authorized grazing within the monument.

In fiscal year 2010, State Strategic Funds have been dedicated to ensure the timely completion of the Wilderness Activity Plan and the two congressional exchanges.

Realty/Acquisition Workload

A Lands/Realty Specialist has been contracted to assist with our land acquisition program. With the assistance of many, including our District and State Office Lands Staff and many partners, BLM is

quickly making great strides in acquiring and protecting adjacent private lands from willing sellers. These projects include land acquisitions potentially under both FLTFA and LWCF authorizations, conservation easements, and congressional land exchanges.