

# NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
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## **BLM ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT PLAN**

**Medford, OR** – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has approved the final plan for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Notice of the final plan will be published in the Federal Register on Thursday, August 21, 2008.

The management plan sets forth the final direction for managing the 52,947 acres of BLM lands for the next ten years. The plan also provides the strategies needed to protect and preserve the biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational and scientific values within the monument.

The 2000 Presidential Proclamation reserved the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in recognition of its remarkable ecology and to protect a diverse range of biological, geological, aquatic, archeological, and historic objects. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is the first monument set aside solely for the preservation of biodiversity. Due to several complex biological and geological factors and processes operating simultaneously, the monument contains an unusually high variety of species in a geographically small area.

Land use decisions made in this plan include: land tenure zoning classifications; designations of vegetation management areas; visual resource management classifications; programmatic and site-specific decisions related to livestock grazing; decisions regarding transportation and access (except those mandated by the presidential proclamation); wildland fire management; recreation management; and management of rights-of-way and communication sites.

Specific project-level decisions contained in the management plan will require detailed analyses prior to their implementation. Some of these activities in the management plan include: vegetation and weed treatment; fire hazard reduction; future livestock management; road decommissioning; riparian and wetland restoration; and recreation. Further public involvement opportunities will be available during the planning for these activities.

"The BLM is always interested in knowing what concerns the public has about how we're managing the monument. The public is always encouraged to express their views and to participate during implementation of the decisions included in the RMP," said John Gerritsma, Ashland Resource Field Manager.

Questions about the management plan should be directed to Mr. Howard Hunter, Assistant Monument Manager, at the BLM Medford District Office at (541) 618-2256 or Ms. Kathy Minor at (541) 618-2245. Copies of the monument management plan are available at the BLM Medford Field Office located at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504, (541) 618-2200. The decision and other planning documents are also available online at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/index.php>

Medford District Office

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## About the BLM

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

## About the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is part of the Bureau's National Landscape Conservation System, created in June 2000 to bring into a single system some of the most remarkable landscapes found on public lands in the west. In total, the Bureau manages over 800 units in the National Landscape Conservation System including National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historical Trails, and Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument was created by Presidential Proclamation in June 2000. The monument encompasses 52,940 acres in southwestern Oregon and is the first monument set aside solely to preserve biodiversity. The area hosts an unusually high variety of species in a geographically small area due to several complex biological and geological factors and processes operating simultaneously. The Monument's remarkable ecology is a product of its location at the crossroads of two different mountain ranges – the Cascades and the Siskiyou – as well as its proximity to the Great Basin.

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