

**Decision Record  
for the  
Table Rocks Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)  
Land Donation  
DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2014-0009-EA**

**Introduction and Background**

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) *Table Rocks Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Land Donation Environmental Assessment (EA)*, released to the public on January 28, 2015, analyzed the potential effects of accepting a land donation from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of lands adjacent to Table Rocks ACEC on Lower Table Rock. In February 2013, TNC approached the Medford District BLM with a proposal to donate five contiguous parcels (220.6 acres) of TNC land to the BLM. These parcels are located in Township 36 South, Range 2 West, Sections 4 and 9 in Jackson County, Oregon. The donated parcels would be managed as an ACEC until it is officially designated as part of the Table Rocks ACEC through a 1995 Medford Resource Management Plan (RMP) amendment or a new resource management plan.

The Table Rock ACEC was designated in the Medford District's 1995 RMP to protect special status plants and animal species such as dwarf wooly meadow foam, southern Oregon buttercup, and vernal pool fairy shrimp; unique geologic and scenic values; and environmental education opportunities. The five TNC parcels proposed for donation will connect two BLM parcels and provide the BLM with contiguous ownership of the Lower Table Rock trail. The existing hiking trail provides public access to the top of the Lower Table Rock mesa through an easement from TNC. The donation would create 500.6 acres of contiguous BLM-administered lands benefitting unique plant and animal species, special habitats, and a variety of plant communities such as grasslands, chaparral shrublands, oak woodlands, and mixed hardwood conifer woodlands (RMP/ROD p. 58).

**Public Involvement**

The BLM analyzed the proposed land parcel donations in the *Table Rocks Area of Critical Environmental Concern Land Donation EA*. The project Interdisciplinary Team determined the action would have no significant impacts and that an environmental impact statement would not be necessary. The EA was available for a 30-day public review period beginning January 28, 2015. A legal notice of the EA's availability was published in the Medford Mail Tribune on Wednesday, January 28, 2015. The EA was posted on the BLM Web site and a letter was sent to adjacent landowners, organizations, tribes and government entities announcing the availability of the EA for review.

The BLM received no comments on the EA.

**Plan Conformance**

The proposed acquisition by donation is in conformance with the objectives, land use allocations, and management direction in the 1995 *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP) and any plan amendments in effect at the time this document is published.

The ROD/RMP (p. 81) states, "Make land tenure adjustments to benefit a variety of uses and values." The donated parcels are located between BLM lands classified as "Land Tenure Adjustment Zone 2." The RMP states that the BLM would "block up areas in Zone 2 with significant resource values." The acquisition of these parcels will allow the BLM to "block up" lands with significant resource values.

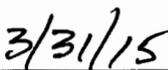
**Decision**

After careful review of available information, it is my decision to implement the proposed action as described in Alternative 2 in the EA (EA, p. 6). The proposed action is to accept the donation of 5 parcels (220.6 acres) and bring the land under Federal management as public domain lands. The BLM would manage the acquired parcels as ACEC until they are officially designated as part of the Table Rocks ACEC through a future planning process.

**Decision Rationale**

I have chosen to implement Alternative 2, as analyzed in the EA, because it most completely meets the identified purpose of and need for the project by providing the BLM with consistency in recreation management and protecting sensitive resources for which the Table Rocks ACEC was designated.

  
C.D. Johnson  
Acting Field Manager  
Butte Falls Resource Area

  
Date

### **Administrative Remedies**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4, and the enclosed form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office, Medford District BLM, Butte Falls Resource Area, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504 within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay **must** also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

#### **Standards for Obtaining a Stay**

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.