INTRODUCTION
This document describes my decision, and reasons for my decision, regarding the selection of a course of action to be implemented in regards to amending the CSNM RMP as it relates to land tenure adjustments. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan Amendment (CSNM RMPA) and Associated Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2013-001-EA) documented the environmental analysis conducted to estimate the site-specific effects on the human environment that may result from the implementation of the CSNM RMPA. The CSNM RMPA/EA was released for public review and posted on BLM’s Medford District website on July 26, 2013. The EA protest period ended August 26, 2013.

BACKGROUND
The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) was reserved by presidential proclamation (Presidential Proclamation 7318, June 2000) 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 Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (CSNM ROD/RMP) was approved in August 2008. It provides guidance and direction for a strategy aimed at protecting and enhancing the public lands and associated resources within the CSNM.

The CSNM RMP made the following land (LAND) tenure adjustment decisions that limit land exchanges in the CSNM by requiring that public land involved in an exchange be located outside the CSNM (page 103):

LAND-1. All currently administered public lands within the monument will be retained.

LAND-5. Lands may be acquired by exchange only where the public land involved in the exchange is located outside the CSNM.

Presidential Proclamation 7318, dated June 9, 2000, states, “All Federal lands within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land laws, including but not limited to withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral
and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument (emphasis added).”

Currently, the CSNM RMP is more restrictive than the Proclamation because the RMP precludes exchanges that further “the protective purposes of the monument” where the public land involved is located within the CSNM. The CSNM RMP at page 103 (LAND-1 and LAND-5) is also more restrictive than the following withdrawal decision on pages 115-117 of the CSNM ROD/RMP:

VER-3. The monument proclamation segregated all federal lands and interests in lands from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land laws, including but not limited to withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under mining laws, and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument.

The Proclamation and VER-3 permit exchange of public lands within the CSNM for private lands that would better protect and/or enhance the purposes for which the monument was designated.

The CSNM RMPA/EA (DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2013-001-EA) documented the environmental analysis conducted to estimate the site specific effects on the human environment that may result from the implementation of the proposal to modify the land tenure adjustment decisions in the CSNM ROD/RMP (2008) to allow for the acquisition of private property through land exchanges where the public land involved in the exchange is located outside the CSNM or where the public land involved is located within the boundaries of the CSNM, as long as in either case the exchange would further protect the ecological values for which the monument was designated.

**DECISION**

As the Responsible Official, it is my decision to implement Alternative 2, as described below.

My decision amends the CSNM RMP as follows:

- Revokes land tenure adjustment decision LAND-1 on page 103 of the CSNM RMP.
- Revises LAND-5 on page 103 of the CSNM RMP as follows:

  LAND-5: Lands may be acquired by exchange where the public land involved in the exchange is located outside the CSNM or where the public land involved is located within the boundaries of the CSNM, as long as in either case the exchange “furthers the protective purposes of the monument.”

**DECISION RATIONALE**

My decision to implement Alternative 2 is based on considering the relative merits and consequences of either implementing or not implementing the CSNM RMPA, as documented in the EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). No public comments were received. I have determined that my decision, as outlined above, best meets the purpose and need for this monument, as identified in Purpose and Need section of the CSNM RMPA/EA (pages 3-4). In summary:

This amendment is consistent with Presidential Proclamation 7318 (June 9, 2000). Revision of LAND-5 will allow for the acquisition of private property through land exchanges where such an exchange would further protect the ecological values for which the monument was designated. It will allow resolution of trespass situations through completion of a land exchange under Section 206 of FLPMA and related regulations at 43 CFR 2200, if such a resolution would further the protective purposes of the monument.
On March 30, 2009, Congress gave the Secretary of the Interior the authority to offer to convey two BLM parcels in exchange for parcels owned by private individuals; the BLM parcels are within the boundaries of the CSNM. This alternative will allow the BLM to process the two land exchanges authorized under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

**CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

The RMP amendment would not authorize any specific land exchanges. Specific land exchanges would be considered on a case-by-case basis and addressed through project-level decisions with further NEPA analysis and evaluation as to whether the specific land exchange “furthers the protective purposes of the monument.” The amendment would allow the BLM to consider, in subsequent NEPA analysis, land exchanges where the federal land to be exchanged is located within the CSNM, including the two exchanges authorized by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. Consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) would be completed during project-level analysis for any subsequent land exchanges.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a plan amendment/environmental assessment was published in the *Federal Register* on October 31, 2011. Publication of the NOI initiated the public scoping process. Public comments were accepted until November 30, 2011. No public comments were received for the proposed CSNM RMP amendment.

The *Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan Amendment and Associated Environmental Assessment* was released to the public for a 30-day protest period beginning July 26, 2013. The EA presented the Proposed Action and a No Action alternative. The protest period ended August 26, 2013. No protests were received.

**PLAN CONFORMANCE**


**CONSISTENCY REVIEW**

The RMP amendment is consistent with the plans and policies of the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management, other federal agencies, state governments, and local governments to the extent that the guidance and local plans are also consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal law and regulation applicable to public lands. Per BLM’s planning regulations (43 CFR1610.3-2(e)), the Governor of Oregon was provided a 60-day period to review the proposed CSNM RMP amendment. The 60-day period began July 26, 2013 and concluded September 25, 2013. The Governor of Oregon did not identify any inconsistency with State and local plans, programs, or policies during this review period.

**ADOPTION AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**

Adoption of this Resource Management Plan amendment will begin upon publication of this Decision Record. No further administrative remedies are available for these land use planning decisions related to
land tenure adjustments. Although these decisions are final and effective upon signing of the Decision Record, and future land exchange will require further analysis and would be subject to appeal. Copies of the Decision Record/CSNM RMPA are available upon request from the BLM Medford District Office, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504 or by calling 541.618.2245. It may also be available on the internet at http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/index.php.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**
Having considered the alternatives, associated effects, and public input, I recommend adoption and implementation of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan amendment, as described in this Decision Record.

John Gerritsma
Ashland Resource Area
Field Manager/Monument Manager

Dayne C. Barron
District Manager
Medford District

**STATE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL**
I approve the proposed decision for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan Amendment and Associated Environmental Assessment for land tenure adjustments as recommended. This document meets the requirement for agency decision-making, as provided in 40 CFR Part 1505.

Jerome E. Perez
State Director
Oregon/Washington