

Medford's Messenger

Spring 2014



Medford District Office

BLM

Medford BLM's Mission

*Working together to sustain and enhance resilient
landscapes and quality of life in southwest Oregon.*

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



Medford's Messenger

a publication of

**Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office**

Spring 2014

Dear Public Land User:

Welcome to the Spring 2014 edition of the *Medford's Messenger*. The purpose of our publication is to provide you with information on proposed and ongoing activities on the Medford District. It contains listings of projects by resource area that have been recently completed and identifies newly proposed projects.

We are seeking ideas and comments from those who may be affected by our multiple-use management programs. Your comments, opinions, and suggestions are appreciated and very important to us. They help us make informed decisions, take sound land management actions, and improve our projects. Our intent is to increase the public's awareness of BLM issues, activities, and opportunities.

This planning update provides a brief description of activities occurring in various programs across the Medford District, as well as descriptions of new projects we are considering. Additional project information can be obtained from the contacts listed in the descriptions. These contacts are familiar with their projects and can answer your questions and provide more details. We are interested in receiving information you wish to share concerning any of the projects or project areas listed in this planning update.

Our practice is to make comments, including the names and addresses of respondents, available for public review. Unless you specifically request us to withhold your name and address, it will be made available to the public on request.

Thank you for your continued interest in our management of your public lands. We would appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have regarding this planning update including how it could be improved to make it more useful to you.

If you have any questions on information in this planning update, please stop by our office at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon, call us at 541-618-2200, or send us an e-mail at BLM_OR_MD_Mail@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dayne Barron'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dayne Barron
Medford District Manager

National Environmental Policy Act Analysis and Documentation

The review of the environmental effects of a proposed management action can occur in one of four ways: categorical exclusion, administrative determination, environmental assessment, or environmental impact statement.

1. A *categorical exclusion* is used when a proposed activity does not individually or cumulatively have significant environmental effects and may be exempt from requirements to prepare an environmental analysis. The purpose of a categorical exclusion is to eliminate the need for unnecessary paperwork under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Specifically, CEQ regulations for NEPA at 40 CFR § 1508.4 state,

Categorical exclusion means a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a Federal agency in implementation of these regulations (§ 1507.3) and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required. . . . Any procedures under this section shall provide for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant environmental effect.

When developing a categorical exclusion, the BLM demonstrates through rulemaking procedures how the action does not typically result in significant environmental effects and sets forth the methodology and criteria used to define the category of actions. These rulemaking procedures include extensive public involvement and input, and Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) review, regarding appropriate limits on the use of the categorical exclusion to assure that any categorically excluded action would remain within the effects of actions covered in the analysis for the rulemaking.

Departmental policy and CEQ regulations require that categorical actions be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine whether any of the extraordinary circumstances apply, as listed in 43 CFR § 46.215, that would preclude the use of a categorical exclusion. An “extraordinary” circumstance is one that could have significant environmental effects beyond the “ordinary” circumstances already described and considered as applicable to the excluded actions in the rulemaking procedure. The Medford District/Resource Areas maintain on-site NEPA registers that list ongoing actions, and post all categorical exclusions and related decisions on the Medford District Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/index.php>.

Categorically excluded actions, by regulation, do not require the documentation necessary for an EA or EIS. No public notice of a federal agency’s use of a categorical exclusion is required. The public was provided a formal opportunity to participate in the agency’s review and approval of these categorically excluded activities. Given this context, the BLM may choose to proceed with these actions as part of the ordinary course of business in land management with the posting of a notice of decision on the District Web site. This notice would advise the public of the formal administrative review process for these individual actions available under 43 CFR § 4.450. Depending on circumstances, however, the BLM may invoke, by publishing a notice in a local newspaper of record, the administrative review process under 43 CFR § 5003 for

certain individual forest management actions. Categorical exclusions posted on the Web site will provide the individual administrative remedy process in the document.

If you are interested in any of these types of actions, more information can be obtained from our Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford> or by contacting the Medford District office. We can give you information on current projects.

2. An ***administrative determination*** is a determination by the BLM that NEPA documentation previously prepared by the BLM fully covers a proposed action and no additional analysis is need. This procedure is often used in conjunction with a plan conformance determination. If an action is in full conformance with actions specifically described in the RMP and analyzed in the RMP/FEIS or a subsequent environmental assessment, a plan conformance determination may be made and no additional analysis would be needed. This determination is documented in a ***determination of NEPA adequacy*** or DNA.
3. An ***environmental assessment*** is prepared to assess the effects of actions that are not exempt from NEPA, categorically excluded, or covered by an existing environmental document. An environmental assessment is prepared to determine if a proposed action or alternative will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In an effort to save paper and printing costs, environmental assessments will be available on our Web site for your review and comment. If you desire a paper copy, please contact us and we will send you a copy by mail.
4. An ***environmental impact statement*** is prepared if a proposed action will have a significant environmental impact and was not previously analyzed in an environmental impact statement.

Recent Decisions or Projects Dropped

Title and Project Description	Location	Project Status	Contact
Integrated Vegetation Management Programmatic EA	Medford District	A Decision Record will be signed for each project resulting from this EA from 2013-2017.	Tony Kerwin
Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration EA	Medford District	Decision Record signed April 17, 2014. Determinations of NEPA Adequacy (DNAs) will be signed for each project resulting from this EA.	Tony Kerwin

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed			Contact	
		Scoping	Analysis	Public Review		Decision Date
Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides EA	Medford District	Completed	Winter/Spring 2014	Summer/Fall 2014	Fall/Winter 2014	Tony Kerwin

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision Date	
86	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Transportation Management Plan EA Comprehensive transportation management plan to evaluate the road network within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and determine transportation, restoration, and protection needs.	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, southeast of Ashland to the California border	Completed	Spring 2014	Summer 2014	Fall 2014	Kathy Minor
87	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Land Exchange EA First of two land exchanges identified in P.L. 111-011-Land Tenure Actions.	East of Ashland, near Lincoln	Completed	Winter 2013/2014	Spring 2014	Spring 2014	Kathy Minor/ Mary Johnson
90	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Land Exchange EA Second of two land exchanges identified in P.L. 111-011-Land Tenure Actions.	East of Ashland, near Lincoln	Completed	Spring 2014	Summer 2014	Fall 2014	Kathy Minor
93	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Pine Plantation Restoration EA Restoration thinning on approximately 300 acres of pine plantations within the CSNM.	East of Ashland	Completed	Summer 2014	Summer 2014	Fall 2014	Kathy Minor
97	Grazing Lease Authorization EA Proposal to authorize the Grizzly allotment grazing lease.	Little Butte Creek watershed	On Hold				Steve Slavik
98	Grazing Lease Authorization EA Proposal to authorize the Billy Mountain allotment grazing lease.	Applegate watershed	On Hold				Steve Slavik

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision Date	
6	South Fork Little Butte Forest Management Project EA Forest management treatment for the maintenance of sustainable forest production.	South Fork Little Butte Creek in the Little Butte Creek watershed	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Summer 2015	Fall 2015	Stephanie Kelleher
7	Nedsbar Forest Management Project Forest management treatment for the maintenance of sustainable forest production.	Little Applegate River and Upper Applegate River watersheds	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Summer 2015	Fall 2015	Chamise Kramer
8	PacifiCorp Lease Renewal EA Renew PacifiCorp's communication lease (OR 038053) on Soda Mountain.	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, southeast of Ashland	Fall 2014	Fall 2014	Winter 2014/2015	Spring 2015	Kathy Minor/ Tanya Dent

Butte Falls Resource Area

Spring 2014

Schedule of Proposed Actions

Recent Decisions or Project Dropped

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Project Status	Contact
8	Evans Creek Forest Management Project EA	Evans Creek watershed	Decision Record signed July 27, 2011. Skeleton Mountain Timber Sale decision published August 24, 2011. Second Decision Record signed December 14, 2012. Acres added to Skeleton Mountain Timber Sale. Third Decision Record signed May 5, 2014. Musty Evans timber sale decision anticipated June 2014.	Jean Williams

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed			Contact	
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review		Decision Date
6	Flat Creek and Summit Prairie Allotments 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal EA Proposal to authorize grazing leases in the Flat Creek and Summit Prairie allotments.	Elk Creek, Big Butte Creek, Little Butte Creek, Lost Creek/Rogue River, and South Fork Rogue River watersheds	Completed	Completed	Completed	On Hold	Robyn Wicks
10	Grazing Lease Authorization EA Proposal to authorize grazing leases in the Bear Mountain, Crowfoot, Vestal Butte Moser Mountain, and Neil-Tarbell allotments.	Shady Cove-Rogue River and Big Butte Creek watersheds		Completed		On Hold	Jean Williams
14	Trail Creek Forest Management EA Landscape-scale forest management projects and restoration activities.	Trail Creek watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Summer 2014	Jean Williams

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Project Name and Description	Location	Proposed Dates				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
14	West Fork Cow Creek Road Realignment EA Relocate a portion of the West Fork Cow Creek Road on private land that has failed continuously for the past 30 years.	West Fork Cow Creek watershed	Ongoing	On Hold	On Hold	Leah Schofield	
16	Lower Graves Integrated Vegetation Management Project EA Proposed commercial thinning and forest management activities.	Grave Creek watershed	Completed	Ongoing	Summer 2014	Ferris Fisher	
17	Upper Cow LSR Project EA Proposed commercial thinning and forest management project within the LSR land use allocation.	Middle Cow Creek watershed	Completed	Completed	On Hold	Leah Schofield	
18	Gold Run #1 Mining Plan of Operations EA Proposed placer mining.	Middle Cow Creek watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Mark Brown	
19	Douglas Fire Recovery Project EA Proposed post-fire salvage and forest management within the Dad's Creek Fire perimeter of the Douglas Fire Complex.	Grave Creek, Jumpoff Joe Creek, Middle Cow Creek, and West Fork Cow Creek watersheds	Completed	Completed	Spring 2014	Leah Schofield	

Resource Area	Project

Please send me additional information on the following project(s):



Please remove my name from the Medford's Messenger mailing list.

**Bureau of Land Management
 Medford District Office
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 Medford, OR 97504**