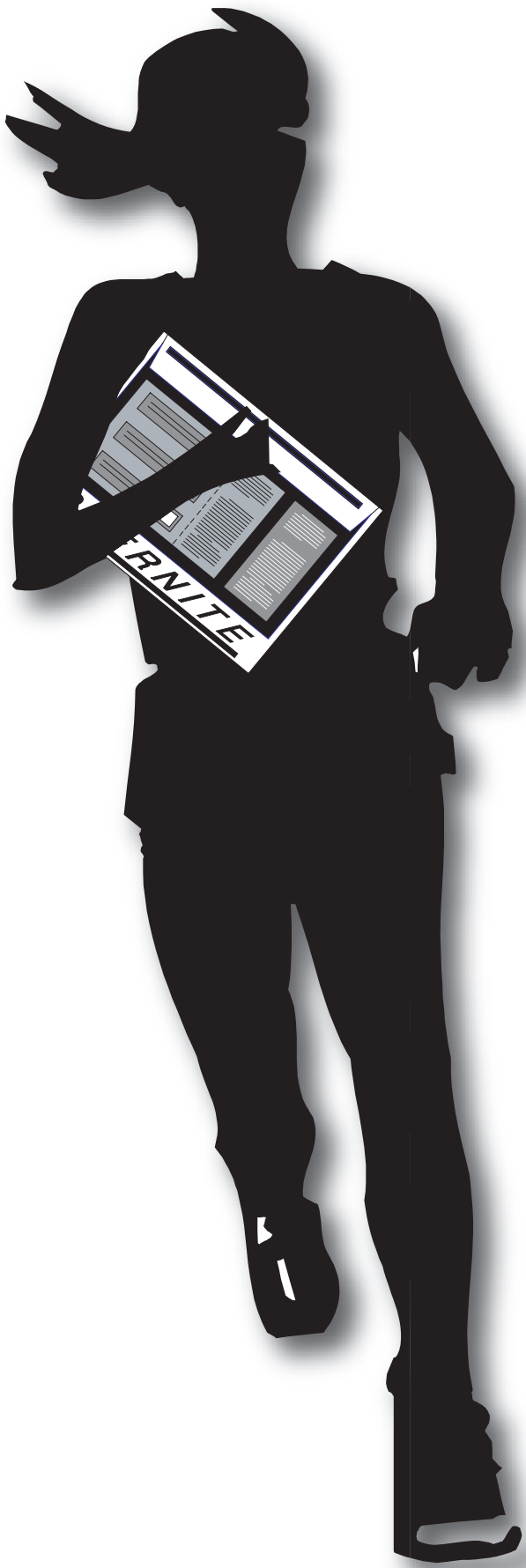


Medford's Messenger

Summer 2008



Medford District

BLM



Medford's Messenger

a publication of

**Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office**

Summer 2008

Dear Public Land User:

The primary purpose of *Medford's Messenger* is to keep you informed of ongoing and proposed activities on the Medford District. It contains listings of projects, by resource area, that have been completed recently and identifies newly proposed projects. It is our desire to keep you informed about issues, activities, and opportunities we think are important to our publics. More importantly, we are seeking ideas and comments from those who may be affected by our multiple-use management programs.

This planning update has been organized to give you a brief description of activities occurring in several programs, as well as descriptions of new projects being considered by the district. Additional information can be obtained from the people listed in the descriptions. These contact people are familiar with their projects and are able to answer questions and provide more details on the projects. They are interested in receiving information you wish to share concerning any of the projects or project areas.

Western Oregon Plan Revision

The BLM released for public review and comment a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the future management of 2.5 million acres of public lands in Western Oregon last fall. The comment period ended Friday, January 11, 2008.

The plan revision team has been working on the task of making revisions to the draft document based on comments that have been received internally, from our publics, and formal cooperators. These will guide us in developing a new, revised Medford Resource Management Plan (RMP), as well as RMPs for the Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, Roseburg Districts and the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District. The proposed RMPs will be issued with a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) detailing what alternative or mix of alternatives has been proposed. A Record of Decision (ROD) will follow soon thereafter. The current document and background information is available on the web at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr>.

Medford District Website

The information contained in *Medford's Messenger* is available on the Medford District website at www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford. The website has been redesigned to reflect current design standards, customer needs and management controls. This redesigned site should result in more timely and relevant information being distributed in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

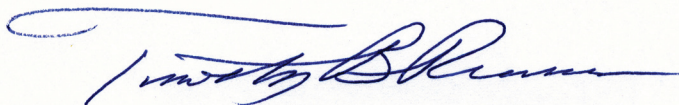
To keep printing costs down, please contact us if you no longer want to receive the Messenger and we will remove your name from the mailing list.

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

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.

Thank you for your continued interest in BLM's management of your Public Lands. If you have any questions on information in this Planning Update, stop by the office or call us at 541-618-2200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy B. Reuwsaat", written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Timothy B. Reuwsaat
District Manager

National Environmental Policy Act Analysis and Documentation

The review of the environmental effects of a proposed management action can occur in any of four ways: categorical exclusions, administrative determinations, environmental assessments, or environmental impact statements.

1. A *categorical exclusion* is used when it has been determined that some types of proposed activities do not individually or cumulatively have significant environmental effects and may be exempt from requirements to prepare an environmental analysis. Departmental policy and the Council of Environmental Quality regulations require that categorical actions be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine whether any of the extraordinary circumstances apply. In addition, no public notice of a federal agency's use of a categorical exclusion is required.

Certain activities within the BLM's forestry program have been categorically excluded from preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of a categorical exclusion is to eliminate the need for unnecessary paperwork under NEPA. Specifically, Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR 1508.4 state that:

“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 (Sec.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.”

In implementation of the NEPA regulations, the BLM has developed categorical exclusions for certain silvicultural activities, such as reforestation, pre-commercial treatments, brush control, sample tree falling, salvage, commercial thinning, and hazardous fuels reduction of limited acres. In developing categorical exclusions, the BLM demonstrated through rulemaking procedures how these actions do not typically result in significant environmental effects and set forth the methodology and criteria used to define the categories of actions. These rulemaking procedures included extensive public involvement and input, and 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.

As such, in deciding whether to proceed with such actions, the BLM will review their particular conditions to ensure that no extraordinary circumstances exist, as listed in the Department of the Interior's NEPA Manual at 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, that would preclude the use of a categorical exclusion. The Medford District/Resource areas maintain on site NEPA registers that list on going actions, and seek information from the

public as to whether extraordinary circumstances exist for any of these ongoing actions that are categorically excluded. 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. These categorically excluded actions, by regulation, do not require the documentation necessary for an EA or EIS. The public was also 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 managing forest land with the posting of a notice of decision on the District internet 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 website will have their individual administrative remedy process contained in the document.

If you are interested in any of these types of actions, more information can be obtained from our website (www.blm.gov/or) or by contacting the Medford District office. We can give you information on current projects.

2. An *administrative determination* is a determination by 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 fully in conformance with actions specifically described in the RMP and analyzed in the RMP/FEIS, a plan conformance determination may be made and no additional analysis would be needed. A recent procedure now being implemented by the BLM is called a determination of NEPA adequacy (DNA) in which an action is examined in the light of existing NEPA documents to determine if NEPA requirements have been met.
3. An *environmental assessment* (EA) is prepared to assess the effects of actions that are not exempt from NEPA, are not categorically excluded, and are not covered by an existing environmental document. An EA 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 website for your review and comment. If you desire a paper copy please contact us and we will send you a copy by mail.
4. Major proposals the will significantly affect the environment and that have not been previously analyzed through and *environmental impact statement* (EIS) require that an EIS be prepared.

Abbreviations and Definitions

ACEC/RNA—Area of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Area

BO—Biological Opinion

CE—Categorical Exclusion—Actions which do not have significant effects on the environment and for which an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

EA – Environmental Assessment – A concise public document that briefly provides evidence and analysis of a proposed Federal action. It is used to determine whether further analysis needs to be done for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

GFMA—General Forest Management Area

IDT—Interdisciplinary Team—A group of resource specialists, whose participation is determined by the issues relating to the project proposal, and who conduct environmental analysis.

LSR—Late-Successional Reserves—One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the *Northwest Forest Plan*. These reserves will maintain a functional, interactive, late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystem.

Matrix Lands—One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the *Northwest Forest Plan*. Most timber harvest contributing to the Allowable Sale Quantity takes place in this area.

MBF—thousand board feet.

MMBF—million board feet

NEPA—National Environmental Policy Act—A federal law which sets the systematic interdisciplinary analysis to achieve integrated consideration of physical, biological economic, and other sciences to provide for an informed decision. The process provides for public participation in the development, review, and revision of certain activities on Federal Lands.

RMP—Resource Management Plan—A land use plan prepared by the BLM in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

Scoping—An early and open part of environmental analysis that allows interested public and other Federal, state and local agencies the opportunity to provide issues, concerns and opportunities relative to proposed project actions. Scoping is required by regulation for Environmental Impact Statements.

**ASHLAND RESOURCE AREA
SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS
MEDFORD DISTRICT • 3040 BIDDLE ROAD • MEDFORD, OREGON 97504**

RECENT DECISIONS

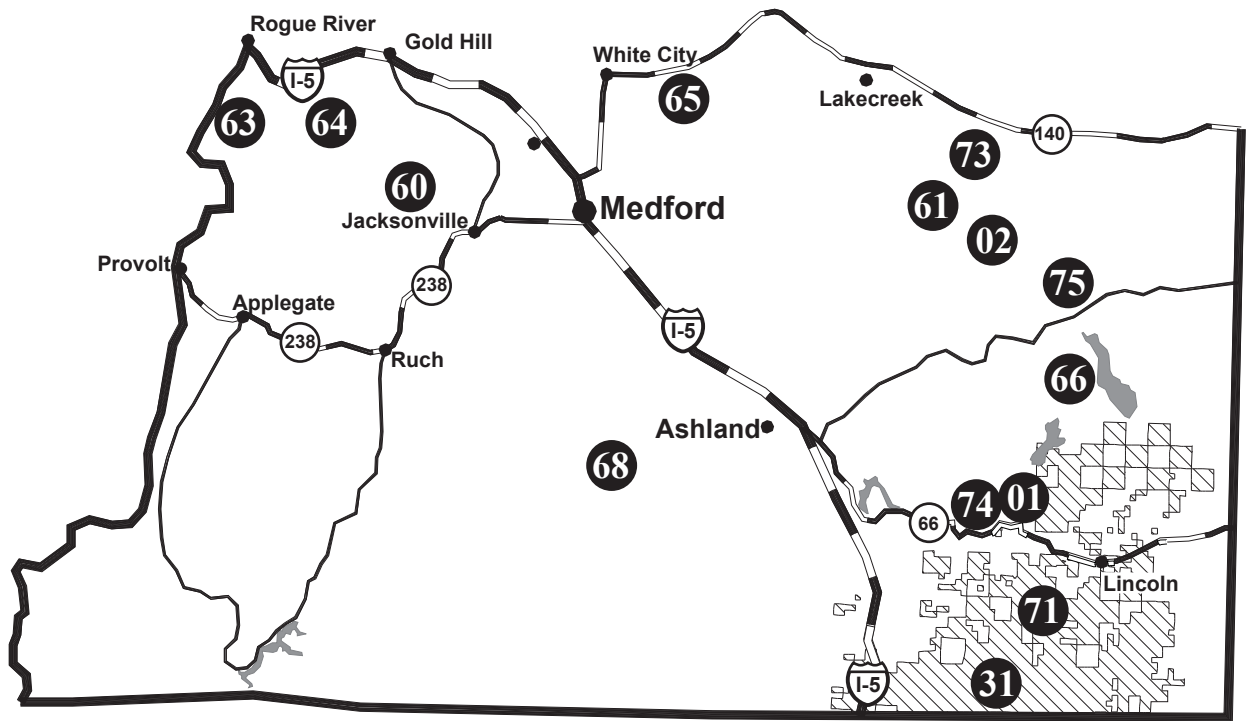
TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PROPOSED			CONTACT	
		SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW		DECISION DATE
1. PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL REROUTE EA. Proposal to reroute a section of the PCNST.	East of Ashland (southern Ore.)	Completed	Completed	Completed	June 2008	Howard Hunter
2. ASHLAND BLOWDOWN (WINDY SODA SALVAGE EA). Removal of trees that were blown down during a severe wind event that occurred in January 2008.	East of Ashland (southern Ore.)	Completed	Completed	Completed	July 30, 2008	Kristi Mastrofimi

NEW AND ONGOING PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PROPOSED			CONTACT	
		SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW		DECISION DATE
31. CASCADE SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT RECORD OF DECISION/ RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.	East of Ashland (southern Ore.)	Completed	Completed	Completed	Summer 2008	Howard Hunter
60. TIMBER MTN/JOHN'S PEAK OHV PLAN/EIS (Draft). An activity level plan managing OHV.	West of Jacksonville	On-going	On-going	Fall 2008	Winter 2009	Kristi Mastrofimi
61. SOUTH FORK LITTLE BUTTE EA. A forest management treatment for the maintenance of sustainable forest production. Involves multiple contracts.	Little Butte Ck. Watershed	On-going	On-going	Fall 2008	Winter 2008/09	Kristi Mastrofimi
63. BIRDSEYE PROJECT EA. A forest management treatment for the maintenance of sustainable forest production	South of Rogue River	Ongoing	Ongoing	Winter 2009	Winter 2008/2009	Ed Reilly

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PROPOSED				CONTACT
		SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	
64. GALLS FOOT PROJECT EA. A forest management treatment for the maintenance of sustainable forest production. Will involve multiple contracts. Previously considered as two separate projects (Galls Kane & Timber Foot), now combined into one project EA.	South of Gold Hill and Rogue River	Completed	Completed	Completed	Winter 2008/2009	Ed Reilly
66. PLATEAU THIN PROJECT EA. A forest management treatment for the maintenance of sustainable forest production.	Upper Jenny Creek Watershed – Vicinity Howard Prairie Reservoir	Completed	Ongoing	Fall/Winter 2008	Fall/Winter 2008	Kristi Mastrofini
68. WAGNER ANDERSON PROJECT EA. A forest management treatment for the maintenance of sustainable forest production.	Wagner Creek Watershed	Fall/Winter 2008	Winter 2008/2009	Winter 2008/2009	Winter 2008/2009	Ed Reilly
71. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION EA: Proposal to evaluate 5 grazing leases for Soda Mountain, Keene, Box R, Jenny Creek, and Deadwood allotments.	Little Butte Creek Watershed	Summer 2008	Fall 2008	Fall 2008	Fall 2008	Steve Slavik
73. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION EA: Proposal to evaluate Heppsie Mountain allotment grazing lease.	Cascade Siskiyou National Monument	Summer 2008	Summer 2008	Fall 2008	Winter 2008	Dulcey Schuster
74. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION: Proposal to evaluate Buck point allotment grazing lease.	Little Butte Creek Watershed	Completed	Spring 2008	Summer 2008	Summer 2008	Dulcey Schuster
75. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION EA: Proposal to evaluate Conde Creek allotment grazing lease.	Sampson Creek Watershed	Summer 2008	Summer 2008	Summer 2008	Summer 2008	Steve Slavik

Summer 2008



Ashland Resource Area Projects

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 01 | Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Reroute EA | 64 | Galls Foot EA |
| 02 | Ashland Blowdown EA | 65 | Grazing Lease Renewal EA |
| 31 | Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Management Plan/EIS | 66 | Plateau Thin Project EA |
| 60 | Timber Mtn/John's Peak OHV Plan/EIS | 68 | Wagner Anderson Project EA |
| 61 | South Fork Little Butte EA | 71 | Grazing Lease Renewal--CSNM |
| 63 | Birdseye Project EA | 73 | Grazing Lease Renewal--Heppsie Mt. |
| | | 74 | Grazing Lease Renewal--Buck Point |
| | | 75 | Grazing Lease Renewal--Conde Creek |

**BUTTE FALLS RESOURCE AREA
SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS
MEDFORD DISTRICT • 3040 BIDDLE ROAD • MEDFORD, OREGON 97504**

RECENT DECISIONS SIGNED OR PROJECTS DROPPED

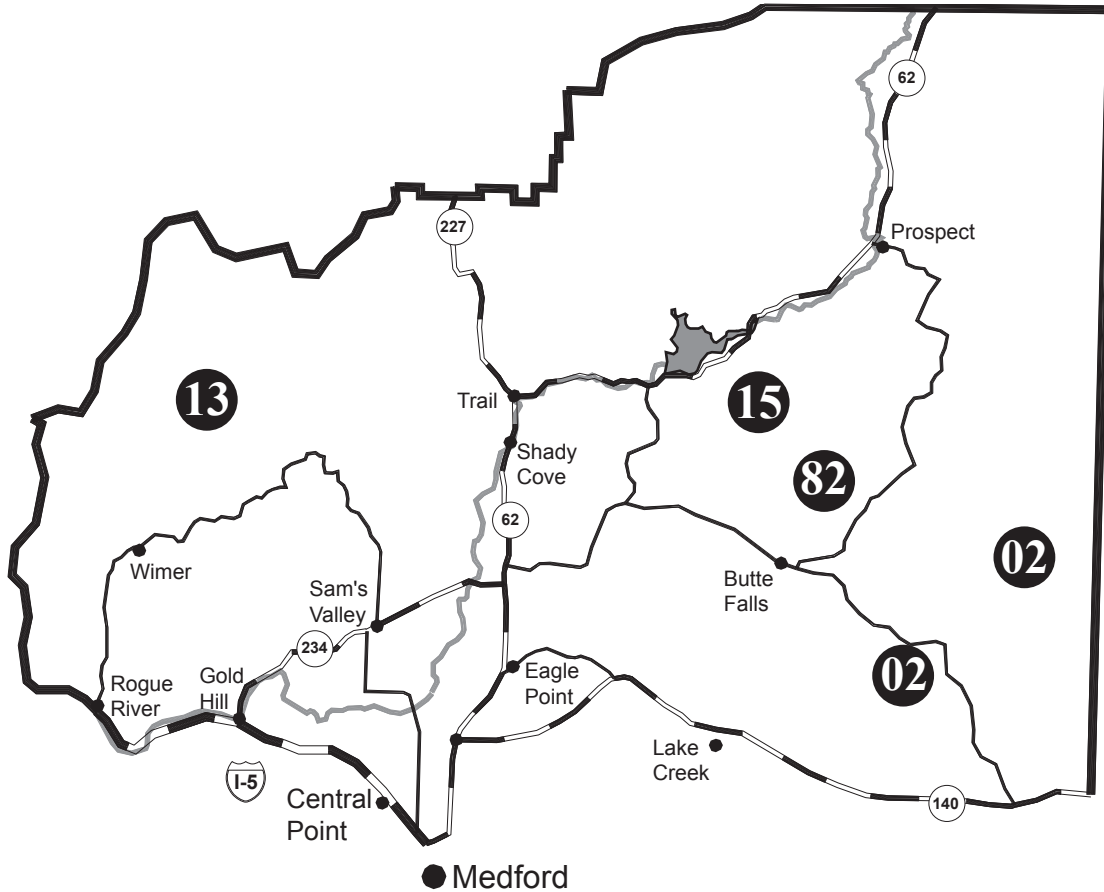
TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
12. SUSPENDED POLE STEWARDSHIP PROJECT	T33S,R3W, Sec. 27 T33S,R3W, Sec. 35 T34S,R3W, Sec. 3, 11, 15					Dave Orban
14. UPPER TABLE ROCK TRAIL Renovation and Reroute EA	T36S, R2W, section 1					Trish Lindaman

Summer 2008

NEW PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PROPOSED				CONTACT
		SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	
82. SUMMIT PRAIRIE/FLAT CREEK GRAZING AUTHORIZATION RENEWAL EA	Butte Falls Resource Area	Completed	Completed	Completed	On Hold	Kimberly Hackett
02. BOWEN ARROW/TWIN RANCH Timber Sales and Fuels Reduction EA	T34S, R3E, Sec. 33, 34, 35; T35S, R2E, Sec. 13, 15, 23, 25; T35S, R3E, Sec. 1, 2, 3, 7, 11, 12, 17, 19, 31.	Completed	Winter/ Spring 2008	On Hold	On Hold	Jean Williams
13. EVANS CREEK EA Timber Sales and Fuels Reduction EA	T32S, R2W; T32S, R4W; T33S, R2W; T33S, R3W; T33S, R4W; T34S, R2W; T34S, R3W; T34S, R4W; T35S, R4W; T35S, R5W; T36S, R4W; T36S, R5W	Fall 2007	Winter 2007	On Hold	On Hold	Jean Williams
15. BLOWDOWN SALVAGE EA	Scattered throughout area from Highway 62 to Highway 140 and from Crowfoot Road to USFS boundary on east.	Spring 2008	Summer 2008	Summer 2008	Fall 2008	Jean Williams

Summer 2008



**Butte Falls Resource Area
Projects**

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 02 Bowen Arrow/Twin Ranch EA | 15 Butte Falls Blowdown Salvage |
| 13 Evans Creek EA | 82 Summit Prairie/Flat Creek |

**GLENDALE RESOURCE AREA
 SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS
 MEDFORD DISTRICT • 2164 NE SPALDING AVENUE • GRANTS PASS • OREGON 97526**

ACTIVE PROJECTS WITH DECISIONS, OR PROPOSED PROJECTS AND ANTICIPATED DECISION DATES

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
<p>81. WESTSIDE PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: Proposed activities include timber harvesting, pre-commercial thinning, fuels reduction, road work, and riparian restoration.</p>	<p>Middle Cow Creek Watershed</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Chew Choo Timber Sale - Sept 2006 (sold unawarded sale); Westside Fuel Treatments - Nov 2006; Fortune Stew (Stewardship)- Fiscal Year 2009; Small Fortune Timber Sale -Fiscal Year 2009; Five Cows Timber Sale -Fiscal Year 2009; Swampwood Timber Sale - Fiscal Year 2009; Boxcar Timber Sale - Fiscal Year 2009</p>	<p>Martin Lew</p>

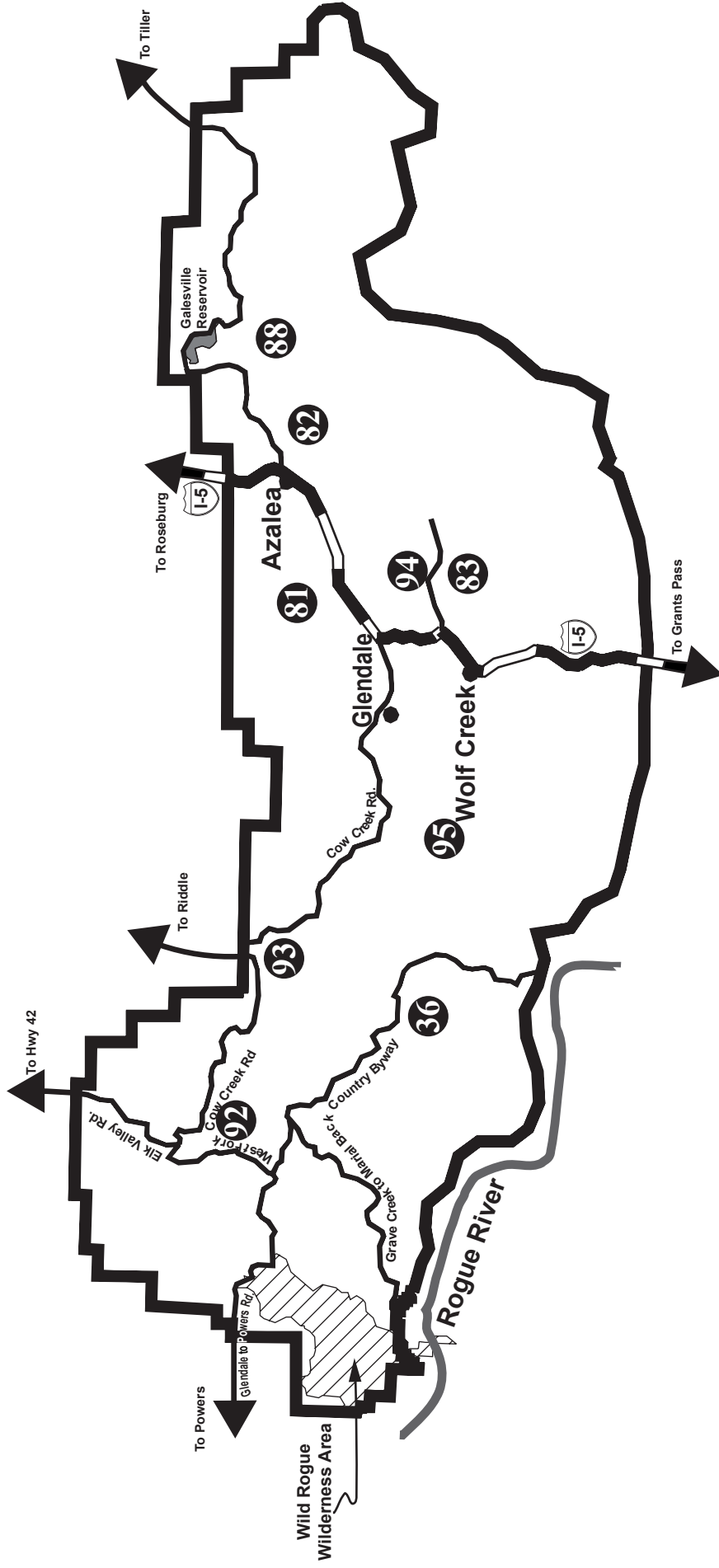
TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
82. MIDDLE COW LSR PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT. Proposed activities include timber harvest, thinning treatments, fuels reduction, wildlife enhancement, riparian restoration, and recreation development opportunities.	Middle Cow Creek Watershed. South Umpqua/Galesville Late Successional Reserve.	Completed	Completed	Completed	Timber Sales: Healthy Murph - Aug 2006; Snag Creation and Stream Habitat Improvement - June 2007; Starving Cow - Sept 2007; Fuel Treatments - Jan 2007; Fizzy Stew (Stewardship)-Fiscal Year 2009	Michelle Calvert
83. PERPETUA RIGHT OF WAY ROAD CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT. Proposed right-of-way road construction and road use.	T.33S., R.5W., sections 17 & 20	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Michelle Calvert

Spring 2008

NEW PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PROPOSED				CONTACT
		SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	
68. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENTS AND HAULING PERMITS. Processing of individual requests from other public agencies and private parties for access through BLM managed lands.	Glendale Resource Area					Martin Lew
92. ANAKTUVUK THIN. Proposal to thin stands to enhance stand growth and vigor.	T.32S., R.9W., Sections 8, 9, 16-18, 21	Completed	Ongoing	Fiscal Year 2009	Fiscal Year 2009	Martin Lew
93. BONEY SKULL PROJECT. Proposed activities include timber harvesting, pre-commercial thinning treatments, fuels reduction, and road work.	T.32S., R.8W., Sections 12-14, 23, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35; T.32S., R.7W., Sections; T.33S., R.8W., Sections 1-5, 11-12; T.32S., R.7W., Sections 19, 31	Completed	Ongoing	Fiscal Year 2009	Fiscal Year 2009	Michelle Calvert
94. GOLDEN CEDAR PROJECT. Proposed activities include timber harvesting and road work.	T.33S., R.5W., Sections 17, 18, 20, 30, 31, 32, 35; T.34S., R.5W., Sections 3, 6, 11, 15, 17	Fiscal Year 2009	Fiscal Year 2009	Fiscal Year 2009	Fiscal Year 2010	Martin Lew
95. WOLF PUP PROJECT. Proposed activities include timber harvesting and road work.	T.33S., R.7W., Sections 13, 14, 23, 25, 27, 34, 35; T.33S., R.8W., Sections 17, 19, 29, 31; T.34S., R.7W., Sections 1&3	Winter – Spring 2008	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	Michelle Calvert

Spring 2008



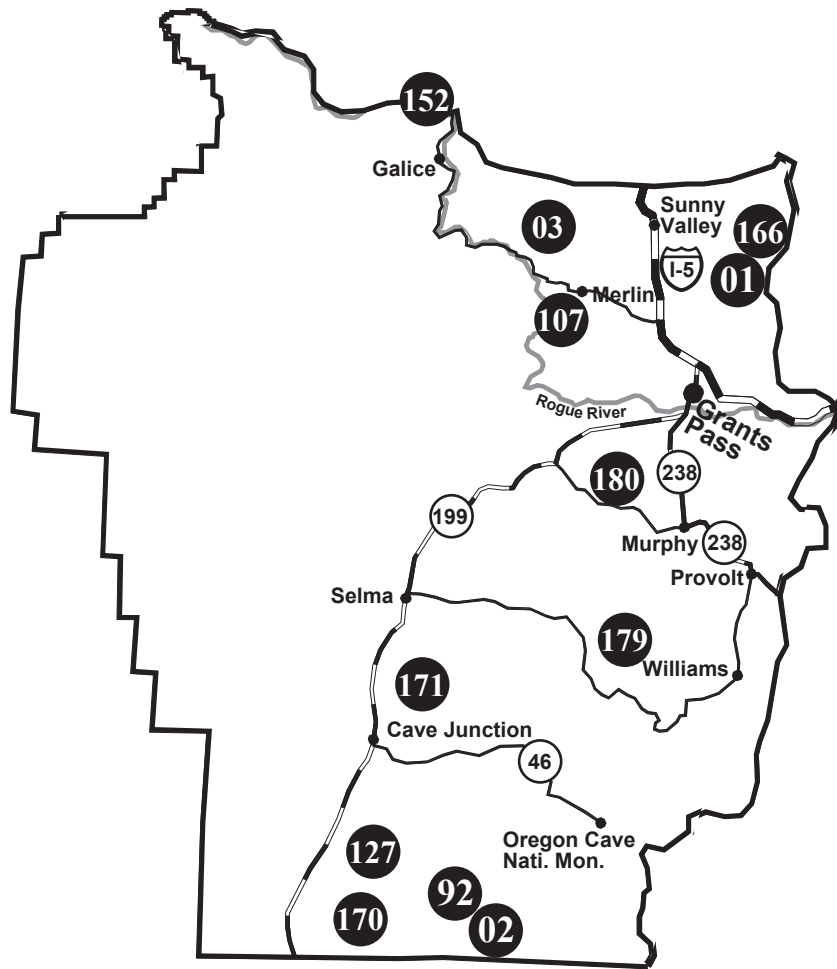
Glendale Resource Area Projects

- 81 Westside Landscape Planning Project
- 82 Middle Cow LSR Landscape Planning Project
- 83 Perpetua ROW Road Construction
- 92 Anaktuvuk Thin
- 93 Boney Skull Project
- 94 Golden Cedar Project
- 95 Wolf Pup Project

**GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA
SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS
GRANTS PASS INTERAGENCY OFFICE—2164 NE SPAULDING, GRANTS PASS, OREGON 97526**

NEW OR ON-GOING PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME AND DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PROPOSED DATES			CONTACT	
		SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW		DECISION
92. ALTHOUSE SUCKER LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	Althouse and Sucker Creek Watersheds	Completed	Completed	Completed	Fall 2008	Dave Maurer
107. WILDLIFE IMAGES R&PP LEASE	T35S,R7W, Sec 25,36		On Hold			Cori Cooper
127. FRENCH FLAT ACEC MANAGEMENT PLAN	T40S,R8W, Sec 10,15	Completed	Fall 2008	Winter 2009	Spring 2009	Susan Fritts
152. ROCKY BAR RECREATION SITE	T34S,R6W, Sec 36	Completed	On Hold			Cori Cooper
166. GRANITE JOE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	North of Grants Pass	Completed	Fall 2008	Winter 2009	Spring 2009	John Schneider
170. EAST FORK ILLINOIS LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	East Fork Illinois River	Completed	Completed	Completed	Fall 2008	Jon Raybourn
171. TENNESSEE LIME LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	Kerby area	Completed	Completed	Completed	Fall 2008	Robin Taylor
179. DEER WILLY ROADSIDE FUELS REDUCTION	Williams Creek Watershed; Deer Creek LSR	Completed	Completed	Completed	Summer 2008	Allen Mitchell
180. CHENEY SLATE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	Lower Applegate River Watershed	Completed	Summer 2008	Fall 2008	Winter 2009	Cori Francis
1. BRASS JOE / WATERBROOK RIGHT-OF-WAY	T34S,R5W, Sec 23; T35S, R5W, Sec. 3	Completed	Summer 2008	Fall 2008	Fall 2008	Jim Roper
2. CHINA GARDEN INDIAN HILL RIGHT-OF-WAY	T40S,R7W, Sec 13	Completed	Completed	Completed	Fall 2008	Jim Roper
3. QUARTZ CREEK OHV MANAGEMENT PLAN	Jumpoff Joe & Rogue Recreation Section Watersheds	Completed (under Quartz Creek LMP)	Summer 2008	Fall 2008	Winter 2009	Jeanne Klein
4. MEDFORD DISTRICT PROGRAMMATIC WATERSHED RESTORATION EA	Medford District	Scoping	Winter 2009	Spring 2009	Spring 2009	Mike Mathews



**Grants Pass Resource Area
Projects**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 01 Brass Joe/Waterbrook Right of Way 02 Indian Hill Right of Way 03 Quartz Creek OHV Plan 92 Althouse Sucker Forest Management Project EA 107 Wildlife Images R&PP Lease EA 127 French Flat ACEC Management Plan EA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 152 Rocky Bar Recreation Site Development EA 166 Granite Joe Landscape Mgt Project EA 170 East Fork Illinois Landscape Management Project EA 171 Tennessee Lime 179 Deer Willy Roadside Fuel Hazard Reduc. 180 Cheney Slate Landscape Mgt Proj. EA |
|--|---|

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504**

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PERMIT NO. G-76**



Providing information to the public about the management of natural resources on public lands.