

Cottonwood Canyon State Park EA

October 2015 ~ Update

DOI-BLM-OR-P040-2013-0015-EA

The purpose of this newsletter is to update you on the BLM, Prineville District's, Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Analysis and Travel Management Plan (EA). It has been over a year since we mailed our scoping notices and met at public meetings to discuss proposals about leasing land to Oregon State Parks. We greatly appreciated the opportunity to share ideas about the BLM's role in the future of Cottonwood Canyon State Park, and hear your concerns about boating, vegetation and travel management.

In between fire seasons, our interdisciplinary team has been busy! We have been working to complete a route-by-route analysis of the trails and roads within the project area. We met with neighboring landowners to assess needs for administrative use and rights-of-way. We have also been coordinating with the Oregon State Parks staff to understand how recreational use in Cottonwood Canyon State Park aligns with the BLM's new John Day Basin Resource Management Plan (JDBRMP). In the past year, we have made two major changes to the proposed alternative:

- After reviewing all of the public comments and taking a look at the land management direction provided in the JDBRMP, we have changed the proposed action to include fewer open routes and identified actions to minimize effects on many of the open routes. For example, our proposed action dropped three miles of trail on BLM land, meaning we went from 32 to 29 miles of non-motorized trails. Our analysis also includes drainage design features to control erosion. Most of the existing routes would remain open to administrative use by the BLM and park staff, right-of-way holders, or livestock lessees.
- After looking into our options for establishing a partnership with Oregon State Parks, we are proposing to move forward with a Memorandum of Agreement under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, instead of managing the area under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease. Management through an MOU would not affect the proposed action and will still allow us to provide the public a seamless recreation experience with access to both the land and water in this area.

We want to keep you informed about this project, and to let you know that maps and documents for this project will be available online at:

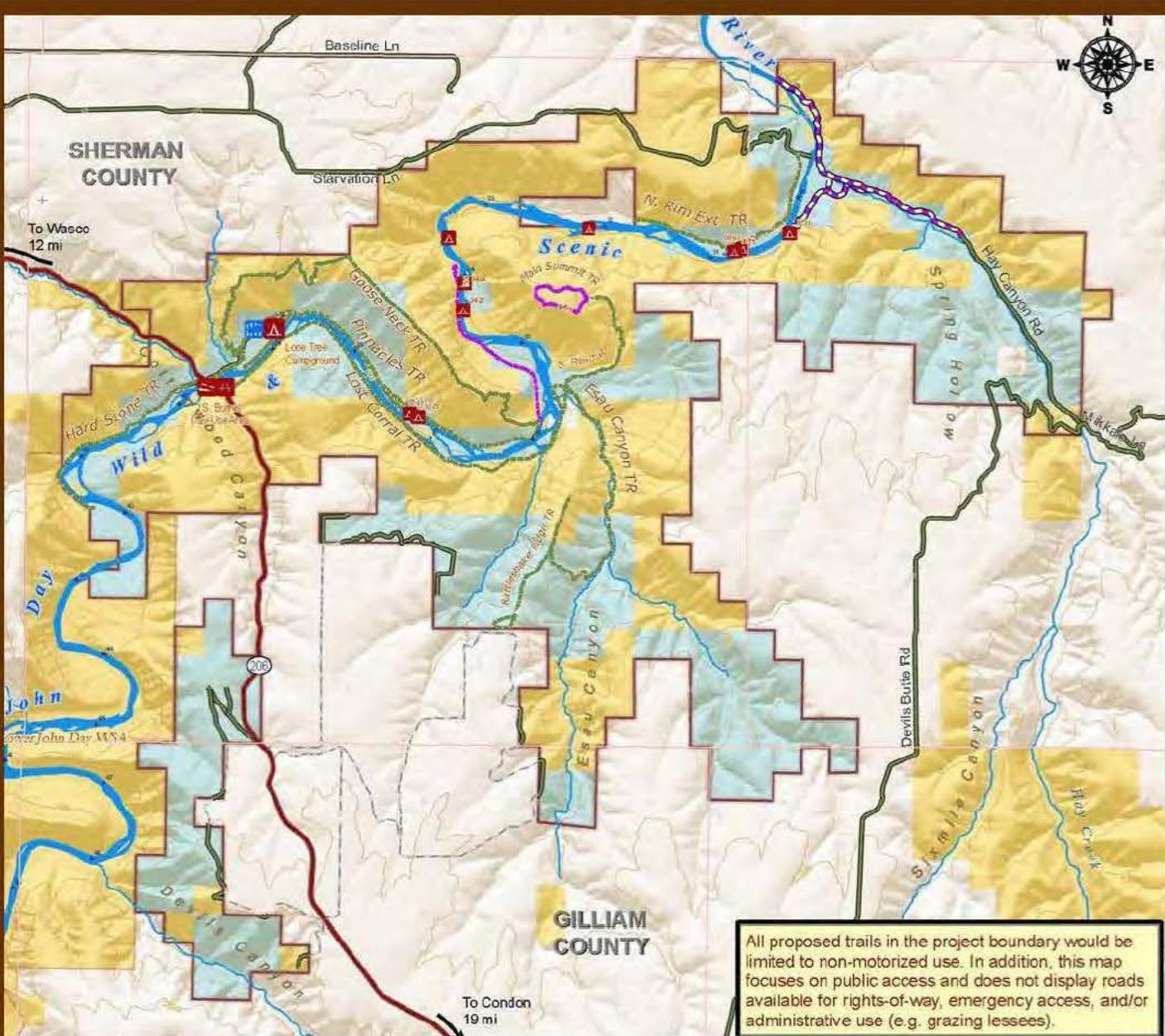
<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/cotton/index.php>

While we are not currently in an official public comment period (the next official comment period will happen when the draft EA is sent out for review), we always want to hear from you. Your feedback, ideas and information strengthen our decisions and make us a better neighbor. If you would like to comment on the Cottonwood Canyon State Park Environmental Analysis, or have a concern or question, please contact Anna Smith at 541-416-6747 or email her at: aksmith@blm.gov



We're on the web!
<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/index.php>





**Cottonwood Canyon State Park
Proposed Travel Management 2015**

Alternative 2 - Proposed Transportation Designation

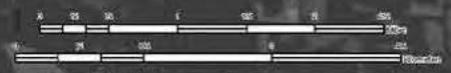
- Proposed Boat-In Campsite (River Mi. Labeled)
- Trail Designation**
 - Open Year Round
 - Open - Seasonally (Sep 1 - Jan 31)
- Road Designation**
 - State Highway
 - Open Year Round
 - Open - Seasonally (Apr 15 - Oct 31)
 - Private Rd (Closed to Public Use or Unknown)
- Land Ownership**
 - Project Boundary
 - BLM
 - State
 - Private/Unknown
 - Stream



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

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The purpose of this map is to update interested parties about the BLM, Prineville District, Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Analysis and Travel Management Plan. The BLM has been working with our neighbors and State Parks to incorporate many of the ideas from public scoping into the proposed transportation network. While this map is a snapshot of the proposed network, it may change slightly before the BLM publishes the Environmental Assessment.



All proposed trails in the project boundary would be limited to non-motorized use. In addition, this map focuses on public access and does not display roads available for rights-of-way, emergency access, and/or administrative use (e.g. grazing lessees).

