



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tillamook Resource Area

4610 Third Street

Tillamook, Oregon 97141

**In Reply To:**

**1790 (LLORS060)**

**Dec 5, 2013**

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in the process of developing and analyzing the Nestucca Back Country Byway Project within the Tillamook Resource Area of the Salem District BLM. The project will be planned and implemented to achieve specific objectives identified in the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (1995 ROD/RMP) dated May 1995. The Nestucca Back Country Byway Project is located on a total of approximately 41 miles of BLM controlled roads in Tillamook and Yamhill Counties, Oregon which are designated as a Back Country Byway including the Nestucca, Bald Mountain and Bible Creek Access Roads. These road segments are located within three townships (T3S, R7W; T4S, R7W; and T3S, R6W - Willamette Meridian) set between approximately 13 miles west of Beaver, Oregon (U.S. Highway 101) to approximately 10 miles west of Carlton, Oregon (see enclosed map).

The objectives of this project are to provide visitors a safe, scenic travelling experience on the Nestucca Back Country Byway and to facilitate the management of resources while minimizing potential adverse impacts to the environment. The project would accomplish this by providing for continued road maintenance and by upgrading some segments or features of the Back Country Byway. It would include paving the 2.6 miles of the Nestucca Access Road that is currently gravel surfaced; this would involve some minor road realignment and occasional subgrade widening (a total of approximately 2,000 feet) to make it a double-lane road. The project aims to reach a balance between preserving the character of the current driving experience and providing a safe, scenic Back Country Byway which is generally consistent with the other BLM-controlled portions of the Nestucca Access Road. This would be accomplished by minimizing any unnecessary increase in the size of the Byway's footprint (i.e. excessive "cut and fill" construction and/or oversized clearing limits).

The project would involve replacing approximately 120 undersized and/or failing culverts along the Nestucca, Bible Creek, and Bald Mountain Access Roads including installing additional cross-drain culverts where needed. Approximately 5 of these culverts are located on larger, fish-bearing streams (e.g. Ginger Creek, Cedar Creek and Bear Creek) which would be replaced with a bridge or new culvert greater than approximately 15 feet in width; approximately 5 are located

on minor, fish-bearing streams which would be replaced with new culverts ranging in size from about 6 to 15 feet in width; and approximately 60 are located on non-fish-bearing streams which would be replaced with new culverts ranging in size from about 2 to 6 feet. An estimated 50 cross-drain culverts would be replaced or added. The current, single-lane bridge at Elk Creek would be replaced with a two-lane bridge. The project also includes chipsealing currently paved road segments; repainting fog lines and centerlines; repairing multiple road slump areas; constructing additional paved turnouts along Bible Creek and Bald Mountain Access Roads; and installing traffic signs, informational signs and additional guard rails. Roadside trees leaning toward or over the Back Country Byway (primarily hardwoods) would be managed to reduce the need for future maintenance.

You have been identified as someone who might have specific knowledge or interest in this project. The purpose of this letter is to give you an opportunity to share any information or concerns you may have about the project, perceived issues or potential impacts; this includes any input that could drive the development of project alternatives to be considered and/or analyzed during our planning processes. I would appreciate your written comments by **January 3, 2014**. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Tillamook Resource Area Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of environmental analysis documents or related correspondence.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Steve Bahe at (503) 815-1123 or by email at [sbahe@blm.gov](mailto:sbahe@blm.gov). **Written comments may be mailed to Karen M. Schank - Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 4610 Third Street, Tillamook, OR 97141 or e-mailed to [kschank@blm.gov](mailto:kschank@blm.gov)**

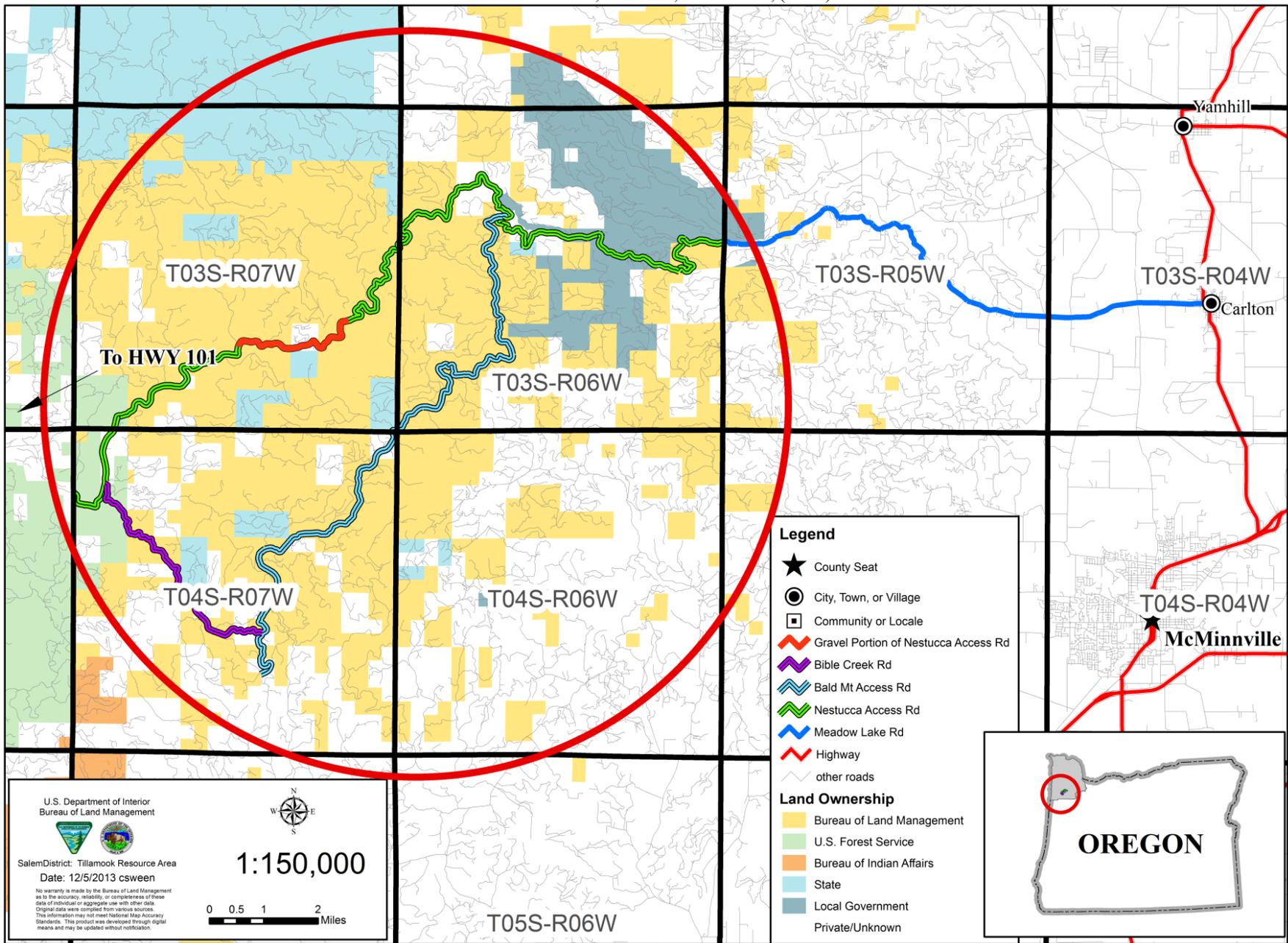
Sincerely,



Karen M. Schank  
Tillamook Resource Area Field Manager

Enclosures (1): Nestucca Back Country Byway Project Area Map

Nestucca Back Country Byway Project Area Map  
 United States Department of the Interior- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 T3S R6W, T3S R7W, & T4S R7W, (W.M.)



U.S. Department of Interior  
 Bureau of Land Management

Salem District: Tillamook Resource Area  
 Date: 12/5/2013 csween

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data of individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

1:150,000

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

**Legend**

- ★ County Seat
- City, Town, or Village
- Community or Locale
- ▬ Gravel Portion of Nestucca Access Rd
- ▬ Bible Creek Rd
- ▬ Bald Mt Access Rd
- ▬ Nestucca Access Rd
- ▬ Meadow Lake Rd
- ▬ Highway
- ▬ other roads

**Land Ownership**

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- State
- Local Government
- Private/Unknown

