



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Salem District Office

1717 Fabry Road S.E.

Salem, Oregon 97306

<http://www.or.blm.gov/salem/>

In Reply Refer To:

8300 (ORS050)

RE: Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan

EA# DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2010-0001-EA

JUN 17 2011

Dear Public Land User:

The Marys Peak Resource Area of the Salem District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to develop the Alsea Falls Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) in the Upper Alsea River, Marys River, Five Rivers, Lake Creek, and Long Tom River fifth field watersheds. The planning area is located on lands managed by the BLM in Township 14 South, Ranges 6 and 7 West and Township 15 South, Ranges 6, 7, and 8 West, (Benton and Lane Counties), south of Alsea, Oregon. The purpose of this letter is to update you on our proposal for the Alsea Falls RAMP area, which outlines recreation management actions within these lands for the next 15 years. We have developed two action alternatives for managing recreation within the Alsea Fall ; RAMP.

Alternative A – (no action) proposes continuing current management practices, reflects existing conditions, recreation management, and operations within the Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), and provides background information for Alternative B and C that follow. No large-scale site development or alteration would occur. Alsea Falls Recreation Site would remain managed under current rules and regulations. Actions would only address the most severe resource concerns. No new trails would be constructed and trailhead access would remain in current conditions.

Alternative B proposes to cater to the existing mix of recreation users within the SRMA, continue current recreation management, and provide the following additional action items. Camping opportunities would continue in the existing Alsea Falls recreation site, expanding to accommodate future demand. The Alsea Falls picnic area would remain available, with possibilities of increased facilities to accommodate future use and visitors of all abilities. An overhaul of the 17-mile, non-motorized Alsea Falls Trail System would re-align, re-route, and restore unsustainable portions of the trail system and construct up to 20 miles of new non-motorized trail. The riparian trail in the picnic area would be decommissioned and re-routed. Self-guided visitor interpretive and environmental education programs based on a cohesive interpretation and sign plan would be developed.

Alternative C proposes installing phone and electrical lines to the recreation site for administrative purposes with future options to expand to visitors. This alternative would include much of the proposed actions of Alternative B except alternative power sources would not be developed. The riparian trail in the picnic area would be armored in an effort to keep that opportunity. Trail and byway connections with the Eugene District's Upper Lake Creek Special Recreation Management Area would be pursued. An accessible overlook for visitors to get a closer view of the Alsea Falls would be constructed.

Please visit the website for more information:

http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/plans/alsea_index.php. If you are unable to view this information and would like a hard copy, please contact Traci Meredith at the number below.

Please comment on the proposed alternatives to assist us in developing a recreation area management plan to guide recreation management of the Alsea Falls Recreation Area over the next 15 years. The BLM would appreciate your comments by July 6, 2011. Early input will ensure consideration of your concerns throughout the planning process.

For additional information, or to be removed from the mailing list for this project, please contact Traci Meredith 503-315-5991 or, Traci_Meredith@blm.gov. Send written comments to Patricia Wilson, Marys Peak Resource Area Field Manager, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, Salem, OR 97306.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia Wilson
Field Manager, Marys Peak Resource Area