

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**Border Field Office
1103 North Fancher Road
Spokane, Washington 99212**

SCOPING/INFORMATION PACKAGE

Hawk Creek 400 Acre Re-Vegetation Environmental Assessment

Introduction

This information package summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to re-vegetate 400 acres of previously farmed lands within the Hawk Creek Allotment in north-central Lincoln County, Washington.

Federal actions must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences.

The purpose of this information package is to inform interested and affected parties of the proposal and to solicit comments to assist with the environmental review of the proposal. The analysis of the proposal is underway and will be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA). Public comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that also fulfill the purpose of and need for the project.

Project Area Description

The Hawk Creek Allotment is located approximately eight miles west of Davenport, Washington in north-central Lincoln County (see attached map). The 4,038-acre allotment, managed by the Border Field Office, is located within the Upper Crab Creek Management Area. The legal description of the allotment is:

Portions of **T.25 N. R.35 E.** and **T.25 N. R.36 E.**

Background

The field re-vegetation project is \pm 400 acres of previously farmed lands within the boundaries of the Hawk Creek Allotment and is located approximately 8 miles west of Davenport, Washington (Map A – Vicinity Map). The 4,050 \pm acre allotment is within the Upper Crab Creek Management Area, an area designated in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Spokane Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Preliminary Purpose and Need

Purpose: The proposed re-vegetation project will increase species diversity and the structure of grasses, forbs and shrubs on 400 acres of previously farmed lands within the Hawk Creek Allotment.

Need: The existing vegetation of the proposed treatment areas lack plant horizontal and vertical structure and species diversity. The plant composition is primarily composed of intermediate wheatgrass, alfalfa, mustards, cheatgrass, and other introduced weed species. The re-vegetation project would improve habitat conditions and forage availability on previously farmed lands within the Hawk Creek Allotment.

Preliminary Proposed Action

The preliminary proposed action is comprised of the following components:

The proposed action includes the re-vegetation of approximately 400 acres of previously farmed lands primarily composed of intermediate wheatgrass, alfalfa, mustards, cheatgrass, and non-native, introduced weed species. Re-vegetation would be accomplished through seeding and livestock management. The area would be treated with herbicide, then seeded to enhance the diversity of the plant community, provide additional forage, and improve habitat for migratory birds and grouse (sharp-tailed and sage). Livestock grazing of the treated areas would be managed for 3-5 years to ensure establishment of the re-vegetation effort. Long term livestock management (5-10 years) of the re-vegetated areas would include the area as part of the overall rotation and management of the Hawk Creek grazing allotment.

Public Input Needed

Please submit your comments on the proposed action and other issues to be considered to the address noted below by **August 15, 2013**. Comments will be most useful if they provide additional information about the preliminary issues identified above, identify new issues or concerns, or propose alternative actions to accomplish the purpose and need and/or to resolve issues.

Public comments may be submitted electronically or by U.S. Mail to the addresses noted below.

Please send electronic comments to:

BLM_OR_SP_MAIL@BLM.GOV with “**Hawk Creek 400 Acre Re-Vegetation Project**” in the subject line.

Please send U.S. Mail comments to:

BLM–Border Field Office

Attn: **Hawk Creek 400 Acre Re-Vegetation Project**

1103 North Fancher Road
Spokane, WA 99212

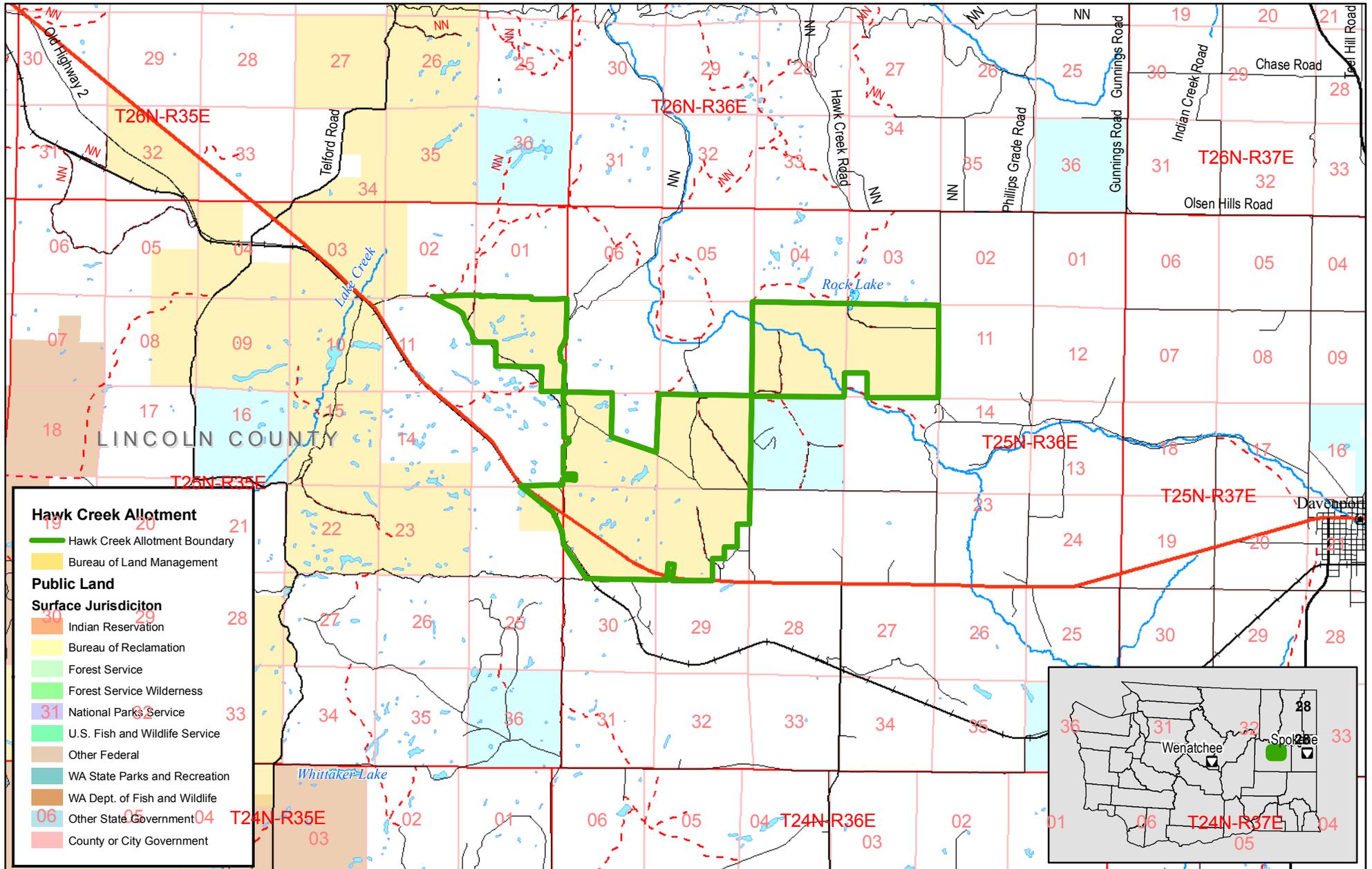
For all comments submitted, please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

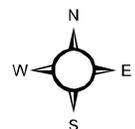
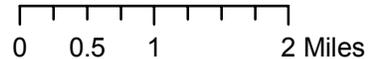
If you have questions, please contact Jason Lowe, Wildlife Biologist, or Kerrin Doloughan, Range Management Specialist, at 509-536-1200.

Enclosures:
Project Area Map

Hawk Creek Allotment



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