

Issue Paper: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon

Background:

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, represent areas within the public lands where special management attention is required to protect or to prevent irreparable damage to any of the following categories:

- important historic, cultural, or scenic values
- fish and wildlife resources
- other natural processes or systems
- life and safety from natural hazards



The BLM develops special management direction to protect relevant and important values. The BLM does not apply special management where other management mechanisms adequately protect the relevant and important values or where designation is not warranted. The BLM designed some special management direction to move the relevant and important value onto a trajectory to reach a desired condition. The BLM designed other special management attention to protect the relevant and important values from management actions or other human activities. This may include prohibiting or modifying certain management activities.

Key Points:

- Across the decision area, the potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern represent a high level of diversity in both the values protected and the number and categories of values within any one Area of Critical Environmental Concern.
- The BLM would designate between 88 and 94 percent of the 121 areas considered for designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) under the action alternatives.
- Special management to maintain these ACECs' relevant and important values would not preclude O&C sustained-yield timber harvest in the Harvest Land Base.

The Resource Management Plans (RMP) for Western Oregon will determine how the BLM-administered lands in western Oregon will be managed to further the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide for clean water, to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, to produce a sustained yield of timber products, to coordinate management of lands surrounding the Coquille Forest with the Coquille Tribe, and to provide for recreation opportunities.

For more information, please visit the BLM's Resource Management Plans of western Oregon website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/index.php>.