

JUL 5 2012

RMPs for Western Oregon
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

03 July, 2012

RE: Scoping Comments for the Western Oregon BLM RMP

I submit this letter to have it on record in the scoping phase of the Resource Management Plan for the Medford District. I have been committed to the cleanup and promoting the diverse beauty of French Flat and Logan Cut. Also included here is the Waldo Takilma ACEC which was part of the WOPR.

I want to ensure these places, among several others in the Illinois Valley get the recognition they deserve. All of our botanical and cultural areas here tell a profound story of what they represent in both history and science, this area has both. Biologically, French Flat area is one of the most diverse landscapes in Southwest Oregon and has a high "Beta" diversity which can be seen just north of the townsite of Waldo where the visitor can go from a coastal temperate rainforest (with a few pines here and there) to a pine savanna that looks like Eastern Oregon, to this beautiful, low elevation oak forest all the way to the active beaver pond that is now Esterly Lakes. These are just three of five distinct and very different vegetation types all found within a square mile!

I have an eye for what I think could serve as a public space, and get the area more popularly visited in a non-motorized, less-invasive manner. Interestingly, this topic has been visited before by the Rockydale Neighborhood and their success in the trail/route on the east side of Rockydale Road. I am just bringing it back to light with the help of lots of community members who share this vision. I think it is also important to create reasons why we should support this;

Some reasons why and how it helps all of us;

1. Rare Botanicals and high "Beta" Diverse Forests at low Elevation.
2. Close proximity to town (2-7 miles) and takes in over 4 square miles.
3. It's flat! Wheelchair access-seniors with disabilities opportunity. This also becomes a health benefit for people with heart conditions or diabetes!
4. Trail/route connectivity from Cave Junction to Takilma.

5. Trial Connectivity from Cave Junction to Siskiyou Wilderness and Coast to Crest Trail. This was also a part of the Draft Comprehensive Plan for the City of Cave Junction; Connectivity to wilderness.
6. Community, non-motorized, multiple use trail with possibilities for other walking/riding routes.
7. Rich mining history, Interpretive signs.

Access is year around because of its low elevation.

With a huge, wonderful, collaborative effort, we got the garbage removed, so now folks can enjoy a trash free, French Flat! My goal and vision here is that we can have people on one trail that transects the area and gets people off of the flats because of its sensitive botanical ecosystem. This also will serve as "eyes and ears" so if we see things happening we can address it. This is a long term vision that needs to be part of the scoping for this next chapter of guidance in the BLM history.

This is an opportunity to have a great public park that has low elevation, four season, flat, walking opportunities that everyone can enjoy(there are some low hills here too!) which could benefit our community and improve our health. It also lets the agency know that we care about our neighborhood community forests and wild places so they can assist in maintaining this biological gem they also recognize and we live near.

Thank you,


Greg Walter

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