



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District

Medford's Messenger

Fall 2019



Prescribed fire specialist implementing underburn treatment during cool-moist conditions to reduce understory ladder fuels along roads. Effectively treated road systems serve as strategic management zones to increase fire suppression effectiveness and reduces wildfire spread across the landscape.

Medford BLM's Mission

Working together to sustain and enhance resilient landscapes and quality of life in southwest Oregon.

**Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504**



Medford's Messenger

a publication of

**Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office**

Fall 2019

Dear Public Land User:

Welcome to another edition of *Medford's Messenger*, the Medford District BLM's update on our land management project planning. With gratitude, I can reflect on a less active wildfire season for the Rogue Valley in the summer of 2019. That said, we recognize the continued risk posed to the southern Oregon communities and landscapes from wildland fire.

That is not all that has been happening at the Medford BLM, which is a busy place! We started off the fiscal year implementing suppression repair and rehabilitation plans for the numerous fires that burned in 2018. In our normal program of work, and in line with our mandate under the O&C Act, we offered more timber for sale than any year in the past two decades. We also planted over 911,000 seedlings across more than 2,700 acres. In addition, we have made progress on efforts to reduce hazardous fuels and increase fire resiliency on Medford BLM-administered lands.

Which brings me to my next point. We know wildland fire is a natural component of southern Oregon. Yet, recent science has confirmed what many already believed: the southern Oregon landscape is at risk of wildfire beyond a normal ecological range. To help create and maintain conditions that more closely resemble the natural range of variability, trees and vegetation need to be thinned and controlled burns need to occur. These types of actions can emulate low-intensity, natural disturbances, which in turn can help reduce the severity and impact of wildfire on our forests and communities.

To this end the Medford District' recently released, for public comment, a draft portion of the programmatic environmental assessment for our Integrated Vegetation Management for Resilient Lands effort. The assessment proposes a suite of vegetation management actions to cost effectively promote and develop safe and effective wildfire management opportunities, fire resilient lands and fire resistant stands, and habitat for special status species on certain portions of Medford BLM lands. This effort will be a step towards returning Medford District lands to a more resilient state, as well as doing what we can to lower the potential for high-severity wildfire spreading to areas where people live or to highly valued resources and assets.

If you'd like to learn more about this program of work, you can find more online at <https://go.usa.gov/xmuJV>, or you can return the mailer at the back of the *Medford's Messenger*, or email us at blm_or_md_ivm@blm.gov. The BLM will also be hosting an open house on **November 14** to offer more information at the **Expo in Jackson County** from **4:30 to 7:00 PM** in the **Mace Building**.

I am delighted to note that the first portion of the new recreation area at the former Provolt Seed Orchard is now open to the public for day-use every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. This new Recreation Management Area is 15 miles southeast of Grants Pass along Highway 238 and adjacent to the Applegate River near Williams. Eventually, more areas will open on more days of the week.

This opening is the cumulation of many months of effort to develop a Recreation Area Management Plan that opens up this land to the public for recreational and educational opportunities, environmental education/interpretation, and improved visitor safety, all while reducing the chances for user conflict. You can find a copy of the plan, including maps, online at <https://go.usa.gov/xPgTn>. I want to thank the members of the community that contributed to the recreation management plan. Your participation has made this project a success!

I'd also like to acknowledge and offer many thanks to the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association (SUTA) for completing over 15 miles of trail maintenance in 2019 on the Sterling Mine Ditch and Jack-Ash trail systems utilizing volunteers, and forestry crews with funds provided by the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, Title II program. In addition, SUTA has been helping with the preparation of the environmental analysis for the second phase of the Jack-Ash Trail Construction Project.

In other developments of note, The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 was signed into law on March 12, 2019. Among other things, this law establishes 149 miles of new Wild and Scenic River designations in the Medford District: 117 miles of Rogue River tributaries, 6 miles of North Fork Silver Creek, 18 miles of Jenny Creek, 1 mile of Spring Creek, and 7 miles of Elk Creek.

Lastly, I want to introduce two additions to our Medford District leadership team: Lauren Brown, Ashland Field Manager, and William (Bill) Dean, Grants Pass Field Manager who joined us in May.

Lauren came to us from the White River Field Office in Meeker Colorado where she served as Assistant Field Manager, supervising both Renewable and Non-Renewable resource programs. Lauren has a background in ecology and has served in various positions in Nevada, Colorado, and Florida as a restoration ecologist and natural resource specialist, with emphasis on invasive species management and post-fire rehabilitation.

Bill Dean is from the Prineville District Office in Oregon where he served as the Associate District Manager and an Assistant Field Manager. He has a technical background as a wildlife biologist, and has worked in multiple locations in Oregon and Montana.

Thank you for your continued interest in our management of your public lands. We would appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have regarding this planning update including how it could be improved to make it more useful to you.

If you have any questions on information in this planning update, please stop by our office at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon, call us at 541-618-2200, or send us an e-mail at blm_or_md_mail@blm.gov.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth R. Burghard
Medford District Manager

The Medford's Messenger is available on the BLM's National Website at <http://go.usa.gov/xUTqJ> (at the bottom of the page under "Frequently Requested NEPA Documents") or on the BLM's National ePlanning website at <http://go.usa.gov/xEmEq>.

National Environmental Policy Act Analysis and Documentation

The review of the environmental effects of a proposed management action can occur in one of four ways: categorical exclusion, administrative determination (determination of NEPA adequacy), environmental assessment, or environmental impact statement.

1. A ***categorical exclusion*** (CX) is a category of actions the BLM has identified that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and are exempt from requirements to prepare an environmental analysis. These include such actions as installing protective grates on abandoned mines, removing hazard trees near roads and trails, or permitting temporary livestock feeding during periods of drought. In some cases, Congress has created CXs for activities such as drilling for oil and gas on a site which has hosted similar efforts in the past five years. The purpose of a categorical exclusion is to eliminate the need for unnecessary paperwork under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). CXs are subject to environmental review to determine whether any extraordinary circumstances apply that would require the preparation of an environmental analysis.
2. A ***determination of NEPA adequacy*** (DNA) is an administrative determination by the BLM that NEPA documentation previously prepared by the BLM fully covers a proposed action and no additional analysis is needed. A DNA includes a plan conformance determination. If an action is in full conformance with actions specifically described in the RMP and analyzed in the RMP/FEIS or a subsequent environmental assessment, a DNA may be prepared and no additional analysis would be needed.
3. An ***environmental assessment*** (EA) is a document that identifies environmental effects of a proposed action and determines their significance. If it seems unlikely that a proposed action will have a significant effect on the environment, the BLM will prepare an EA. An EA describes the purpose and need for a proposed action, describe the affected environment, discuss alternatives to a proposed action, and analyzes environmental impacts and ways to mitigate them. If the EA shows that the proposed action does not have a significant effect on the environment, it will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In some cases, if the analysis completed during an EA shows that the proposed action will have a significant effect on the environment, the BLM will complete a full EIS. In an effort to save paper and printing costs, environmental assessments will be available on our Web site for your review and comment. If you desire a paper copy, please contact us and we will send you a copy by mail.
4. An ***environmental impact statement*** (EIS) is a comprehensive document that analyzes the impacts of a federal action that will have a significant effect on the human environment. An EIS describes the purpose and need for a proposed action, describes the affected environment, discusses alternatives to a proposed action, and analyzes environmental impacts and ways to mitigate them. An EIS is typically a longer document than an EA, and it offers more opportunities for public comment or involvement than an EA. An EIS has more procedural requirements, and therefore takes more time to prepare on average than an EA. Each EIS is completed with a Record of Decision, which documents the BLM's decision as to how it will, or will not, move forward with a proposed action. The BLM posts all NEPA project environmental assessments, categorical exclusions, related decisions, and other NEPA documents on the National Register for Land Use Planning and NEPA at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov>. On this site, you can search for documents by searching an interactive map or through a text search. If you cannot locate a document you are searching for, you can request it through the contact information on page 1 of this document.

Medford District

Schedule of Proposed Actions

Fall 2019

Recent Decisions and Actions

Title and Project Description	Location	Decision Date	Contact
<p>Integrated Invasive Plant Management for the Medford District</p> <p>Treatment of invasive terrestrial and emergent aquatic plants using a variety of methods, including but not limited to herbicide application, manual pulling, and mechanical treatment.</p>	Medford District	<p>A Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) for the 2019 Annual Treatment Plans (ATP) was posted on ePlanning on Sept. 27, 2019.</p> <p>The DNA and the supporting EA are available at https://go.usa.gov/xnBh3. A publicly accessible web map showing treatment locations is also available there.</p>	Jared Nichol
<p>Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Safety Remediation CX</p> <p>Mitigate physical safety risks posed by hazardous AML features - e.g. adits, shafts - generally by installing gates, closing features with backfill or foam seal, or fencing.</p>	Medford and Roseburg Districts	Decision Record signed August 19, 2019.	Jared Nichol
<p>Medford/Roseburg Programmatic Aquatic and Riparian Enhancement Project EA</p> <p>The BLM proposes aquatic and riparian restoration to improve the distribution and quantity of high-quality fish habitat across the landscape for all life stages of ESA-listed, Bureau Sensitive Species, and other fish species. The BLM would maintain and restore access to stream channels for all life stages of aquatic species. BLM proposes to improve habitat by placing large wood and boulders in streams; planting native vegetation, fencing, tipping trees, managing beaver habitat, and removing, replacing and modifying culverts.</p>	Medford and Roseburg Districts	Decision Record signed April 17, 2019. The BLM will complete a DNA and a decision for each site-specific action, and notify the public of each decision	Jared Nichol

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed				Contact
		Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
<p>Integrated Vegetation Management Programmatic EA</p> <p>The BLM will be proposing a range of vegetation treatments (e.g., thinning stands and prescribed fire) within the parameters of the 2016 SWO RMP to cost effectively promote and develop safe and effective wildfire management opportunities, fire resilient lands and fire resistant stands, and habitat for special status species.</p> <p>Draft Chapters one and two of the EA are currently available online at https://go.usa.gov/xmuJV for public review and comment. Comments are most helpful if received by November 18.</p>	Medford District	Fall 2019	Winter/ Spring 2020	Spring 2020	Summer 2020	Jared Nichol
<p>Medford District BLM Recreation Site and Trail Maintenance CX</p> <p>The BLM proposes to conduct ongoing, routine maintenance, repair, and renovation activities at developed and dispersed recreation sites, facilities, and trails, as well as administrative facilities. This CX review will update the 2014 CX review documentation.</p>	Medford District	See note	Fall 2019	See note	Fall 2019	Jared Nichol
<p>Road Right-of-way Agreements and Hauling Permits</p> <p>Processing of individual requests from other public agencies and private parties for access through BLM-managed lands.</p>	Medford District	Ongoing as requests are received				Jared Nichol

Note for District Trail Maintenance CX: No formal scoping or public review period is currently planned for this categorically excluded action. The actions that will be proposed are very similar to those actions carried out under previous CX decisions for recreation site and trail maintenance on the Medford District. The BLM NEPA Handbook does not require public scoping or review for categorically excluded actions. However, the BLM will accept and consider any comments received prior to the decision. The decision and CX review documentation will be posted on BLM's ePlanning website.

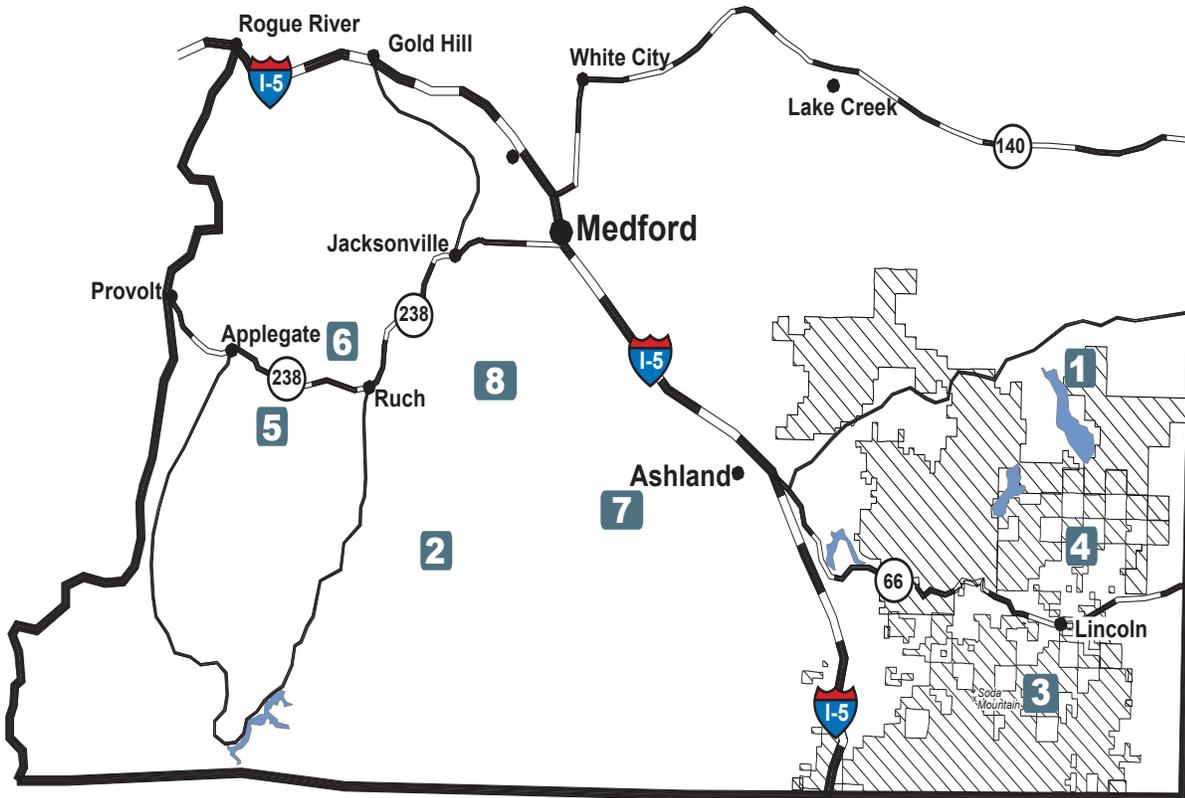
Schedule of Proposed Actions

Fall 2019

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
1	Middle Applegate and Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project Proposal to conduct vegetation management activities in the Little Applegate, Middle Applegate, and Bear Creek Watersheds.	Little Applegate, Middle Applegate, and Bear Creek Watersheds	Fall 2019	Winter 2019/2020	Spring 2020	Spring 2020	Ted Benson
2	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Pine Plantation Restoration EA Restoration thinning on approximately 300 acres of pine and mixed conifer plantations within the CSNM.	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, southeast of Ashland	Fall 2019	Winter 2019/2020	Winter 2019/ Spring 2020	Spring 2020	Charles Schelz
3	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Land Exchange EA Second of two land exchanges identified in P.L. 111-011-Land Tenure Actions (GLI).	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, southeast of Ashland, near Lincoln	Completed	Completed	Completed	TBD	Lyndsay Theurer
4	Right-of-Way M-5131 Project Proposal to repair/refurbish 0.29 miles of inventoried BLM road and authorize an O&C Haul Permit	Bear Creek Watershed	Summer 2018	Winter 2019	Spring 2019	Spring 2019	Tye Morgan

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
5	<p>Anderson Butte Safety Project EA</p> <p>BLM is considering a 2-year temporary restriction of certain target shooting sites in the Anderson Butte area due to unsafe shooting in close proximity to homes and trails. The BLM remains committed to maintain access to safe and legal target shooting on public lands, and will seek to establish the smallest possible temporary restriction to target shooting while addressing public safety.</p>	7 miles southwest of Phoenix. Locations in T39S R02W and T38S R02W being considered	Completed	Summer 2019	TBD	TBD	John Schumacher
6	<p>Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Lease Renewal Project</p> <p>Renewal and modifications, including an increase in tower height, to provide a reliable radio network for Southern Command Dispatch Center, which supports both ODOT and Oregon State Police.</p>	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, southeast of Ashland, on top of Soda Mountain.	Fall 2019	Winter 2019/2020	Spring 2020	Spring 2020	Nicky Webb-Smith
7	<p>Jack-Ash Trail Expansion EA</p> <p>Phase II of the Jack-Ash trail project will enhance the user experience of the Jacksonville to Ashland route on BLM lands while adding significant single track loop opportunities in the Applegate Valley.</p>	Applegate Watershed	Completed	Fall 2019	Winter 2019/ 2020	Spring 2020	Jameson Whitehead



Ashland Field Office Projects

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|---|---|
| 1 Middle Applegate and Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project | 5 Anderson Butte Safety Project EA |
| 2 CSNM Pine Plantation Restoration EA | 6 Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Lease Renewal Project |
| 3 CSNM Land Exchange EA | 7 Jack-Ash Trail Expansion EA |
| 4 Right-of-Way M-5131 Project | |

Butte Falls Field Office

Schedule of Proposed Actions

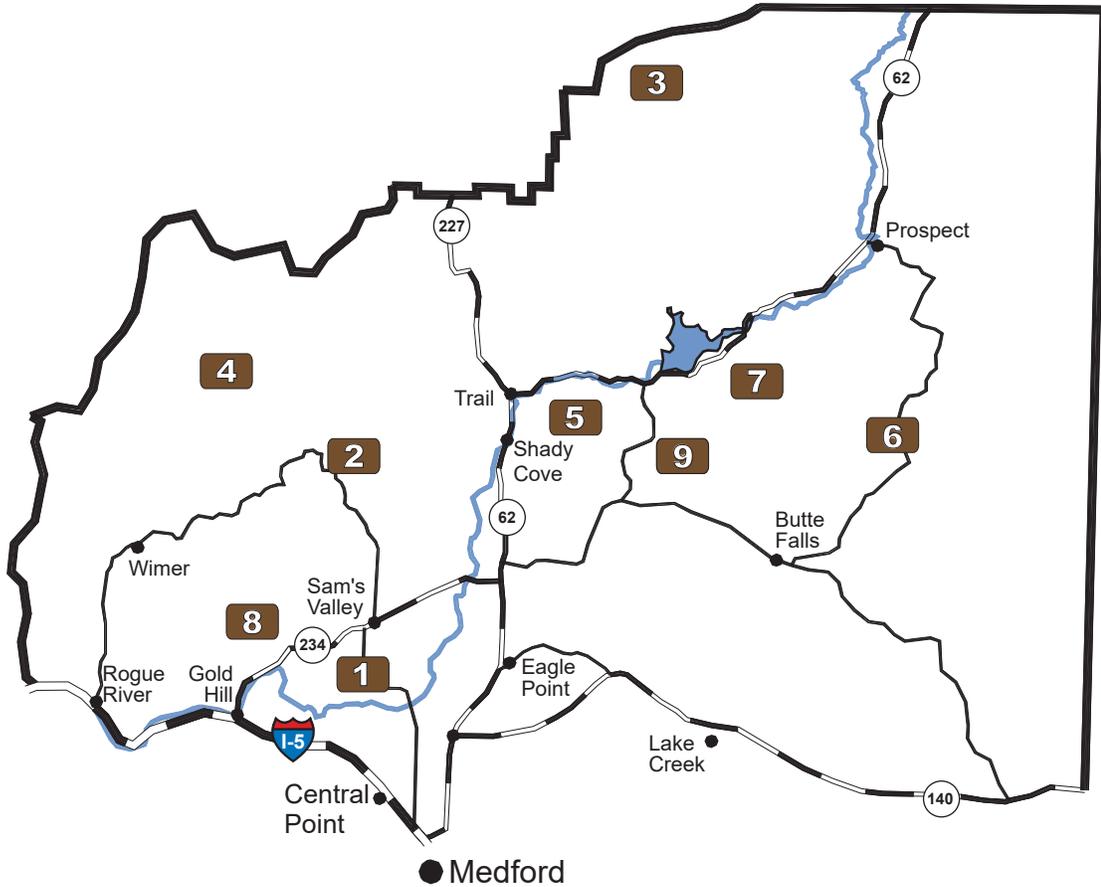
Fall 2019

Recent Decisions

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Decision Date	Contact
1	Table Rocks ACEC Supplemental Rules Public safety and resource protection.	Gold Hill-Rogue River Watershed	Decision signed October 20, 2016 (pending Federal Register Notice)	Jared Nichol
2	Ramsey Canyon Fire Salvage Project - Categorical Exclusion Proposal to salvage dead and dying trees from the Ramsey Canyon Fire Area	Evans Creek watershed	Decision signed March 15, 2019	Teresa Trulock
3	Miles Fire Salvage and Hazard Tree Removal Project - Environmental Assessment Proposal to salvage dead and dying trees from the Miles Fire Area	Elk Creek watershed	Decision signed June 5, 2019	Michelle Calvert
4	Evans Creek Forest Management Project Landscape-scale forest management project	Elk Creek watershed	Decision signed September 10, 2019	Michelle Calvert
5	Elk Camel Forest Management Project Landscape-scale forest management project.	Elk Creek, Shady Cover-Rogue River, and Big Butte Creek watersheds	Shady Elk Decision signed August 17, 2017 Camel Hump Road Improvement Decision signed June 21, 2018 Long Branch Decision Record signed August 7, 2018	Michelle Calvert

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
6	Round Oak Forest Management Project An environmental assessment will be completed for this landscape-scale forest management project.	South Fork-Rogue River, Big Butte Creek, Lost Creek-Rogue River	Fall 2019	Winter 2019/ Spring 2020	Summer 2020	Summer 2020	Michelle Calvert/ Stephanie Kelleher
7	Summit Prairie Allotment 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal Proposal to authorize grazing leases in the Summit Prairie allotment.	Big Butte Creek, Little Butte Creek, Lost Creek/Rogue River, and South Fork Rogue River watersheds	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Jason Tarrant
8	Sam's Valley Reinforcement Project Right-of-Way Proposal from Pacific Power to widen its existing right-of-way on BLM lands to accommodate an additional power line between Sam's Valley and Grants Pass.	Rogue River Watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	On Hold	Stephanie Kelleher
9	Crowfoot Allotment 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal Proposal to authorize a grazing lease in the Crowfoot Allotment.	Shady Cove-Rogue River watershed	N/A	On Hold	On Hold	On Hold	Jason Tarrant



**Butte Falls Field Office
Projects**

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|--|---|
| <p>1 Table Rocks ACEC Supplemental Rules</p> <p>2 Ramsey Canyon Fire Salvage Project - Categorical Exclusion</p> <p>3 Miles Fire Salvage and Hazard Tree Removal Project - EA</p> <p>4 Evans Creek Forest Management Project</p> <p>5 Elk Camel Forest Management Project</p> | <p>6 Round Oak Forest Management Project</p> <p>7 Summit Prairie Allotment 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal</p> <p>8 Sam's Valley Reinforcement Project Right-of-Way</p> <p>9 Crowfoot Allotment 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal</p> |
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Grants Pass Field Office

Schedule of Proposed Actions

Fall 2019

Recent Decisions

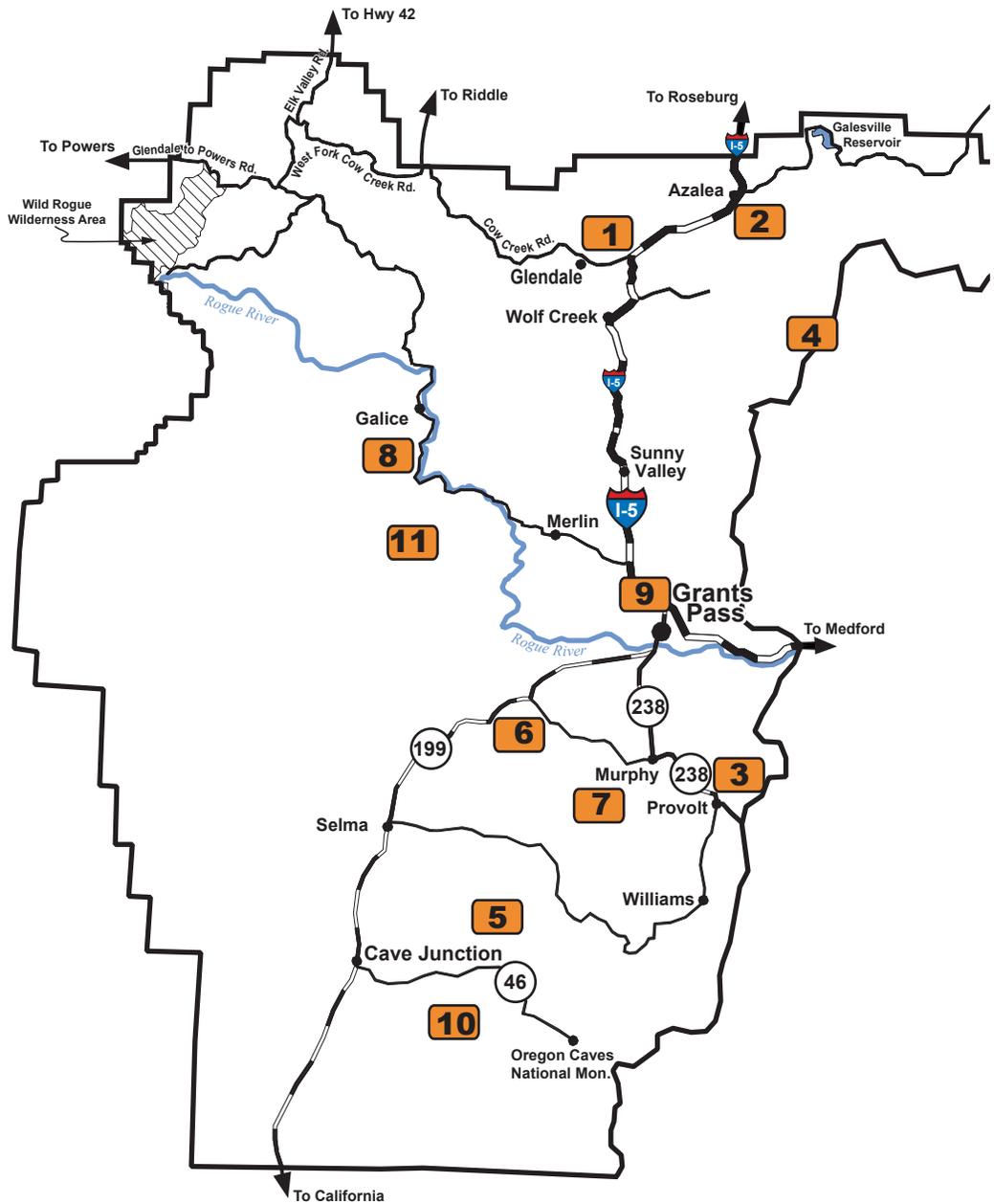
Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Decision Date	Contact
1	Poor Windy Forest Management Project EA Landscape-scale forest management activities	Middle Cow Creek, Grave Creek, Jumpoff Joe Creek, Days Creek, and Lower Cow Creek Watersheds	First Decision Record, Oh Windy Timber Sale, signed September 12, 2019. Second Decision Record, Blown Fortune Timber Sale, expected in Fall 2019.	Ferris Couture
2	4 Apples Association Mining Plan of Operation Proposed mining of 0.5 acres of BLM managed land on an unnamed tributary of Starveout Creek.	Middle Cow Creek Watershed	Decision Record Signed June 6, 2019	Ferris Couture
3	Provolt Recreation Area Management Plan EA Proposed recreation management on approximately 294 acres within the Provolt Seed Orchard Special Recreation Management Area	Lower Applegate Watershed	Decision Record Signed May 22, 2019	Scott Hicks
4	Grave Creek Salvage CX 250 acres Fire Salvage forest management activities	Grave Creek Watershed	Decision Record signed December 21, 2018	Ferris Couture
5	Bear Creek Thin CX 70 acres Commercial Thinning forest management activities	Sucker Creek Watershed	Decision Record signed October 31, 2018	Scott Hicks
6	Wild Bull Thin CX 54 acres Commercial Thinning forest management activities	Lower Applegate Watershed	Decision Record signed October 31, 2018	Scott Hicks

Recent Decisions

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Decision Date	Contact
7	Spencer Creek Salvage CX 27 acres of Fire Salvage forest management activities	Williams Creek and Deer Creek Watersheds	Decision Record signed December 17, 2018	Ferris Couture
8	Taylor Creek Salvage CX 124 acres of Fire Salvage forest management activities	Hellgate Canyon-Rogue River Watershed	Decision Record signed June 5, 2019	Scott Hicks

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Project Name and Description	Location	Proposed Dates				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
9	Josephine County Crossing Plat EA Josephine County is requesting the construction of 745 feet of new forest road on BLM administered lands.	Jumpoff Joe Creek Watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Fall 2019	Ferris Couture
10	Wagon Tongue Mining Plan of Operations EA Proposed mining of 2.5 acres of BLM-administered land adjacent to Sucker Creek	Jumpoff Joe Creek Watershed	Summer/ Fall 2019	Fall 2019	Fall 2019	Winter 2019/2020	Scott Hicks
11	Rocky Gulch Trespass Land Parcel Direct Sale EA Disposal of 3 acres to resolve trespass onto BLM-administered lands.	Hellgate Canyon-Rogue River Watershed	Summer/ Fall 2019	Fall 2019	Fall 2019	Winter 2019/2020	Scott Hicks



**Grants Pass Field Office
Projects**

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|--|---|
| 1 Poor Windy Forest Management Project EA | 7 Spencer Creek Salvage CX |
| 2 4 Apples Association Mining Plan of Operation | 8 Taylor Creek Salvage CX |
| 3 Provolt Recreation Area of Operation EA | 9 Josephine County Crossing Plat EA |
| 4 Grave Creek Salvage CX | 10 Wagon Tongue Mining Plan of Operation |
| 5 Bear Creek Thin CX | 11 Rocky Gulch Land Parcel Sale EA |
| 6 Wild Bull Thin CX | |

ACEC—Area of Critical Environmental Concern

CX (Categorical Exclusion)—Actions that do not have significant effects on the environment and for which an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

CSNM—Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

EA (Environmental Assessment)—A concise public document that briefly provides evidence and analysis of a proposed Federal action. It is used to determine whether further analysis needs to be completed in an environmental impact statement.

EIS (Environmental Impact Statement)—a detailed written statement as required by section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act.

LUA (Land Use Allocation)—The identification in a land use plan of the activities and foreseeable development that are allowed, restricted, or excluded for all or part of the planning area, based on desired future conditions.

LSR (Late-Successional Reserve)—A Federal land use allocation set forth in the *2016 ROD/RMP*. These reserves will maintain a functional, interactive, late-successional, and old-growth forest ecosystem.

HLB (Harvest Land Base)—Those lands on which the determination and declaration of the Annual Productive Capacity/Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) is based. The ASQ is based on implementing a set of specific timber management activities and assumes those practices will be repeated over time and results in a sustainable harvest level.

NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)—A Federal law that sets the systematic interdisciplinary analysis to achieve integrated consideration of physical, biological economic, and other sciences to provide for an informed decision. The process provides for public participation in the development, review, and revision of certain activities on Federal lands.

RMP (Resource Management Plan)—A land use plan prepared by the BLM in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Scoping—An early and open part of environmental analysis that allows interested public and other Federal, state, and local agencies the opportunity to provide issues, concerns, and opportunities relative to proposed project actions. Scoping is required by regulation for environmental impact statements.

Project	Field Office

Please send me additional information on the following project(s):



Please remove my name from the Medford's Messenger mailing list.

**Bureau of Land Management
 Medford District Office
 3040 Biddle Road
 Medford, OR 97504**