



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

Medford's Messenger

Winter 2018



Mount McLoughlin (left) and Brown Mountain (right)

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**

Winter 2018

Dear Public Land User:

Welcome to the Winter 2018 edition of the *Medford's Messenger*. The purpose of our publication is to provide you with information on proposed and ongoing activities on the Medford District. It contains listings of projects by field office that have been recently completed and identifies newly proposed projects.

We are seeking ideas and comments from those who may be affected by our multiple-use management programs. Your comments, opinions, and suggestions are appreciated and very important to us. They help us make informed decisions, take sound land management actions, and improve our projects. Our intent is to increase the public's awareness of BLM issues, activities, and opportunities.

This planning update provides a brief description of activities occurring in various programs across the Medford District, as well as descriptions of new projects we are considering. Additional project information can be obtained from the contacts listed in the descriptions. These contacts are familiar with their projects and can answer your questions and provide more details. We are interested in receiving information you wish to share concerning any of the projects or project areas listed in this planning update.

Our practice is to make comments, including the names and addresses of respondents, available for public review. Unless you specifically request us to withhold your name and address, it will be made available to the public on request.

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.

The *Medford's Messenger* is also now available on the BLM's National ePlanning website at https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do by selecting "Oregon/Washington", "ORWA – Medford DO", "OTHER_NEPA" and "2018" under the Text Search option, or on the BLM's National Website at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/oregon-washington>, under "Frequently Requested NEPA Documents".

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

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*** 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 CEs 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). CEs 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.



Above: *Instream restoration work completed on East Fork Valley Creek with the non-profit organization, Partnership for Umpqua Rivers. Placement of large logs improves aquatic and fish habitat by increasing fish spawning and rearing habitat, pool formation, spawning gravel deposition, hiding cover, and winter refugia. Such work also improves the hydrologic function of floodplains and stabilizes channel banks.*

Medford District

Schedule of Proposed Actions

Winter 2018

Ongoing Decisions

Title and Project Description	Location	Decision Date	Contact
Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration EA	Medford District	Decision Record signed April 17, 2014. A Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) will be signed for each project resulting from this EA until a new EA is completed (see New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered).	Jared Nichol
Integrated Vegetation Management Programmatic EA	Medford District	A Decision Record will be signed for each project resulting from this EA until a new EA is completed (see New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered).	Jared Nichol
Integrated Invasive Plant Management for the Medford District Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides Revised EA	Medford District	Decision Record signed February 5, 2018. A Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNAs) will be signed for Annual Treatment Plans resulting from this EA.	Jared Nichol

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed				Contact
		Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
Aquatic and Riparian Enhancement Project EA	Medford District	Completed	Winter/Spring 2018	Spring/Summer 2018	Summer 2018	Jared Nichol
Integrated Vegetation Management Programmatic EA	Medford District	Winter/Spring 2018	Spring/Summer 2018	Summer/Fall 2018	Fall/Winter 2018	Jared Nichol
Road Right-of-way Agreements and Hauling Permits Individual requests from other public agencies and private parties for access through BLM-managed lands.	Medford District	Ongoing as requests are received				Jared Nichol

Ashland Field Office

Schedule of Proposed Actions

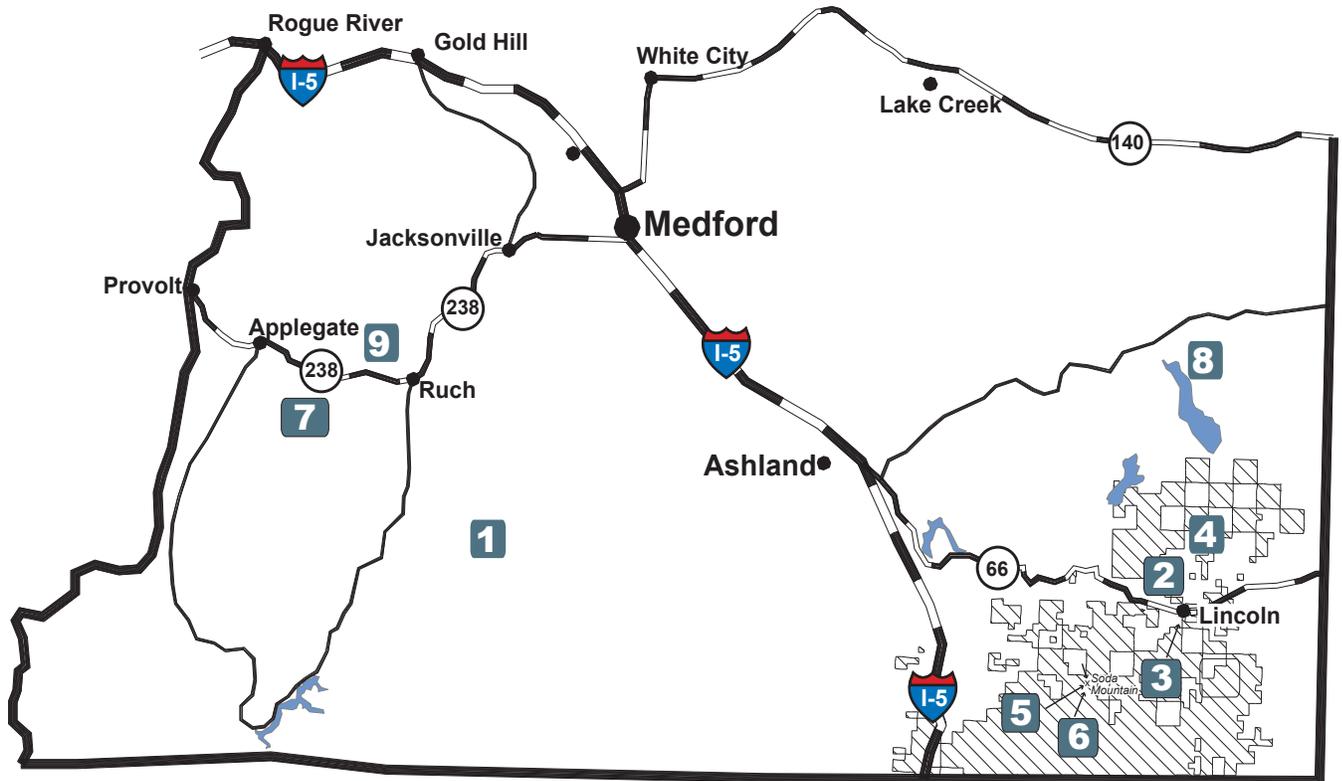
Winter 2018

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
1	Grazing Lease Authorization EA Proposal to authorize the Lower Big Applegate allotment grazing lease.	Middle Applegate Watershed	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Fall 2018	Fall 2018	Brain Lawatch/ Jason Tarrant
2	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Transportation Management Plan EA Comprehensive transportation management plan to evaluate the road network within the boundaries established in 2000 for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and determine transportation, restoration, and protection needs.	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, southeast of Ashland	Completed	Supplemental analysis ongoing	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Lyndsay Theurer
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	Fall 2018	Lyndsay Theurer
4	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	Completed	Ongoing	Fall 2018	Winter 2018/2019	Lyndsay Theurer/ Charles Schelz

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
5	Oregon Department of Transportation Lease Renewal CX or EA Renew communication lease (OR34999) on Soda Mountain.	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, southeast of Ashland	Spring 2018	Spring 2018	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Lyndsay Theurer/ Nicole Webb Smith
6	PacifiCorp Lease Renewal CX Renew communication lease (OR 38053) on Soda Mountain.	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, southeast of Ashland	N/A	Fall 2017	Winter 2018	Winter 2018	Lyndsay Theurer/ Nicole Webb Smith
7	Middle Applegate Vegetation Management Project Proposal to conduct vegetation management activities in the Middle Applegate Watershed.	Middle Applegate Watershed	Spring 2018	Fall 2018	Winter 2018/2019	Spring 2019	Brian Lawatch
8	Griffin Half Moon Vegetation Management Project Proposal to conduct vegetation management activities in the Little Butte Creek and Jenny Creek watersheds.	Little Butte Creek and Jenny Creek watersheds	Fall 2017	Winter 2018/ Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Summer 2018	Brian Lawatch
9	Forest Creek Shiny Geranium Abatement Project Proposal to conduct abatement activities on the invasive weed shiny geranium.	Middle Applegate Watershed	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Fall 2018	Fall 2018	Shanna McCarty



**Ashland Field Office
Winter 2018 Projects**

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| <p>1 Grazing Lease Authorization EA - Lower Big Applegate</p> <p>2 CSNM Transportation Management Plan EA</p> <p>3 CSNM Land Exchange EA</p> <p>4 CSNM Pine Plantation Restoration EA</p> <p>5 ODOT Lease Renewal EA</p> | <p>6 PacifiCorp Lease Renewal EA</p> <p>7 Middle Applegate Vegetation Management Project</p> <p>8 Griffin Half Moon Vegetation Management Project</p> <p>9 Forest Creek Shiny Geranium Abatement Project</p> |
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Butte Falls Field Office

Schedule of Proposed Actions

Winter 2018

Butte Falls Field Office

Recent Decisions

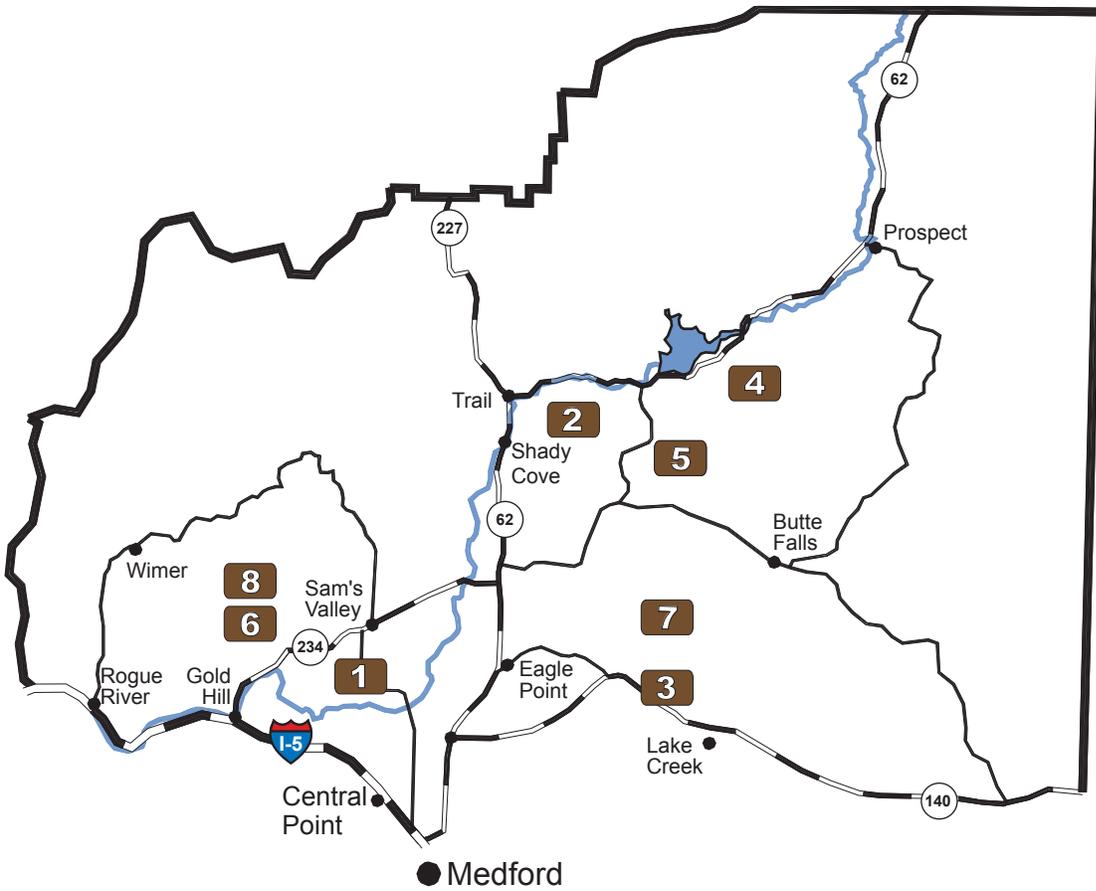
Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Decision Date	Contact
1	Table Rocks ACEC Supplemental Rules Public safety and resource protection.	Gold Hill-Rogue River Watershed	Decision signed October 20, 2016 (pending Federal Register Notice)	Jared Nichol
2	Elk Camel Forest Management Project Landscape-scale forest management projects.	Elk Creek, Shady Cover-Rogue River, and Big Butte Creek watersheds	Decision signed August 17, 2017	Stephanie Kelleher

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
3	Lick Creek Allotment 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal Proposal to authorize a grazing lease in the Lick Creek Allotment.	Little Butte Creek	NA	Winter/ Spring 2018	Spring/ Summer 2018	Spring/ Summer 2018	Jason Tarrant
4	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	Spring 2018	Fall 2018	Winter 2018-2019	Winter 2018-2019	Jason Tarrant
5	Crowfoot Allotment 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal Proposal to authorize a grazing lease in the Crowfoot Allotment.	Shady Cove-Rogue River watershed	NA	Winter 2018	Winter/ Spring 2018	Spring 2018	Jason Tarrant

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Proposed				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
6	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	Winter 2018	Stephanie Kelleher
7	Obenchain Forest Management Project Forest management project.	Big Butte Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds	Completed	Winter 2017-2018	Spring 2018	Spring 2018	Michelle Calvert
8	Gold Sardine Forest Management Project Forest management project.	Gold Hill - Rogue River Watershed	Completed	Winter 2017-2018	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Stephanie Kelleher



Butte Falls Field Office

Winter 2018 Projects

1 Table Rocks ACEC Supplemental Rules

2 Elk Camel Forest Management Project

3 Lick Creek Allotment 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal

4 Summit Prairie Allotment 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal

5 Crowfoot Allotment 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal

6 Sam's Valley Reinforcement Project Right-of-Way

7 Obenchain Forest Management Project

8 Gold Sardine Forest Management Project

Grants Pass Field Office

Schedule of Proposed Actions

Winter 2018

Recent Decisions

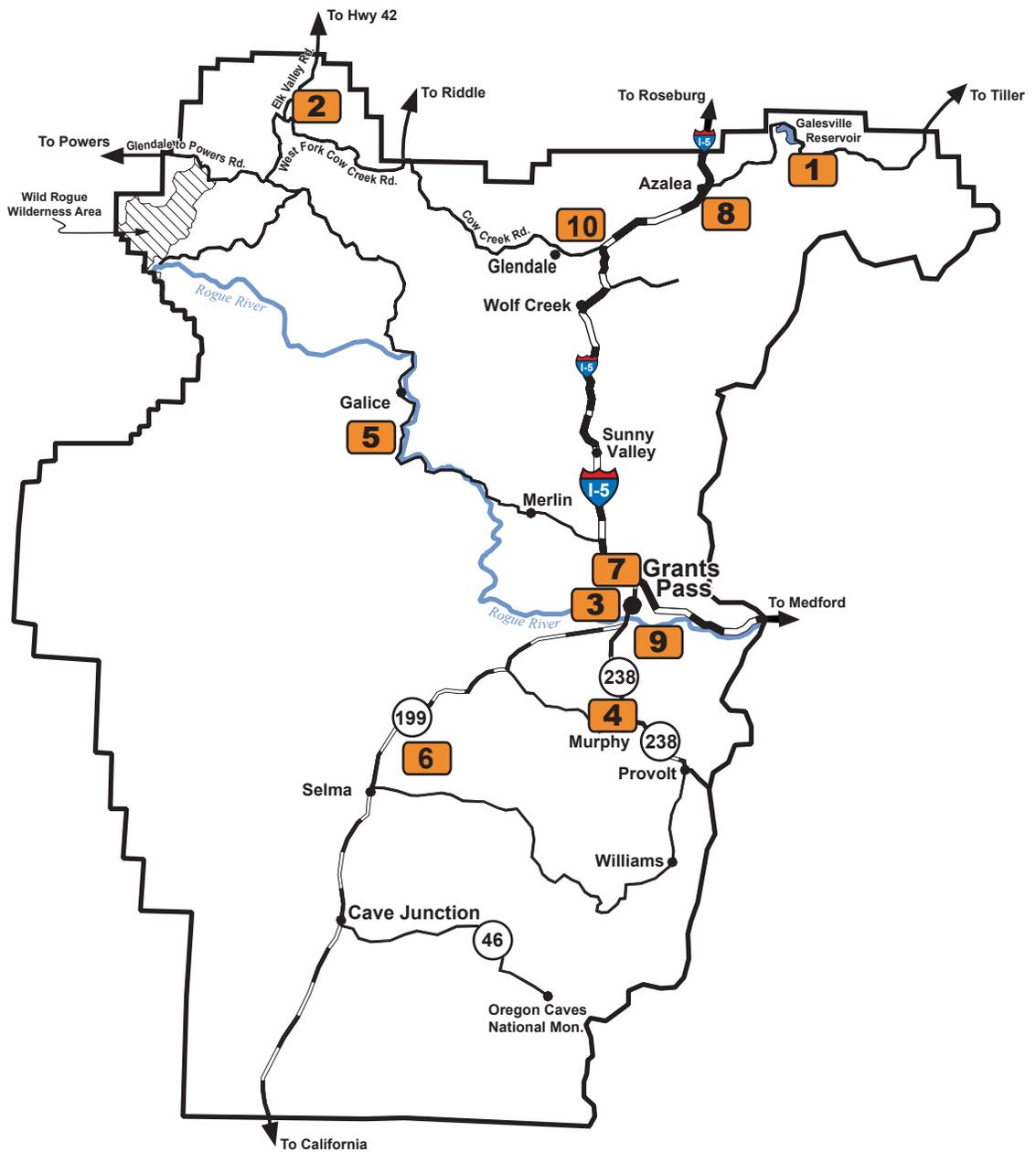
Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Decision Date	Contact
1	Upper Cow LSR Project EA Proposed forest management project to improve late-successional conditions within the LSR and attain the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives in riparian reserves.	Middle Cow Creek Watershed	Second Decisions Record, Beef Stew Stewardship expected in Fall 2018	Ferris Couture
2	Cold Elk Forest Management Project EA Landscape-scale forest management activities.	West Fork Cow Creek Watershed	Third Decision Record, Elk Stew Stewardship, expected in Fall 2018	Ferris Couture
3	Pickett West Forest Management Project EA Landscape-scale forest management activities.	Hellgate Canyon-Rogue River, Deer Creek and Lower Applegate watersheds	Second Decision Record, Savage Murph Timber Sale, expected in Fall 2018.	Ferris Couture
4	Section 13 Quarry Expansion EA Proposal to extract mineral material in T37S, R6W, section 13.	Lower Applegate River Watershed	Decision Record Signed October 2017	Ferris Couture

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Project Name and Description	Location	Proposed Dates				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
5	Stray Dog Mining EA Mineral material extraction in T35S, R8W, section 3.	Hellgate Canyon-Rogue River Watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Spring 2018	Ferris Couture

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Map Number	Project Name and Description	Location	Proposed Dates				Contact
			Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	
6	Clean Slate Forest Management Project EA Landscape-scale forest management activities.	Deer Creek watershed	Completed	Winter 2018	Summer 2018	Fall 2018	Ferris Couture
7	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	Winter 2018	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Scott Hicks
8	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	Completed	Completed	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Ferris Couture
9	COBi Mount Baldy Communication Site ROW Amendment EA Proposed expansion of current communication site on Mount Baldy to add new communication equipment.	Grants Pass-Rogue River	Winter 2018	Summer 2018	Fall 2018	Winter 2018/2019	Ferris Couture
10	Poor Windy Forest Management Project EA Landscape-scale forest management activities	Middle Cow Creek, Graves Creek, Jumpoff Joe Cree, Days Creek, and Lower Cow Creek watersheds	Spring 2018	Winter 2018/2019	Summer 2019	Fall 2019	Ferris Couture



**Grants Pass Field Office
Winter 2018 Projects**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Upper Cow LSR Project EA 2 Cold Elk Forest Management Project EA 3 Pickett West Forest Management Project EA 4 Section 13 Quarry Expansion EA 5 Stray Dog Mining EA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Clean Slate Forest Management Project EA 7 Josephine County Crossing Plat EA 8 4 Apples Association Mining Plan of Operation 9 COBi Mount Baldy Communication Site ROW Amendment EA 10 Poor Windy Forest Management Project EA |
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Acronyms and Definitions

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**