

## Southeastern Oregon RAC Meeting

June 13, 2016

Previous minutes passed at **8:16 a.m.**

### Targeted Grazing: Jeff Moore

- Goal is to interrupt fire; fuel breaks consisting of hundreds of feet of mineral.
- Application of a specific kind of livestock, and intensity to accomplish a defined vegetation or landscape goal.
- Prescriptive grazing (in a defined area) to protect from fire.
- Murphy Complex- Crested Wheatgrass and Big Sagebrush.
- Change in vegetation can help prevent fires.
- Time of day matters—harder to hold a fire in the midday rather than at night.
- Soda fire—280,000 acres, \$67 million
- University of Reno, Nevada is looking at reducing fuels
  - ✓ Stop fire? **OR** Restore community?
- Discussing ways that this could have potential effects on livestock.
- Mineral substances or water to move livestock from place to place.
- Grazing can reduce herbaceous biomass and flame length and rate of fire speed.
- As sagebrush abundance increases, the value of herbaceous removal decreases.
- Carry over fuels can contribute to the fuel loads the following year.
- Order No. 3366
  - ✓ Provide enhanced policies and strategies for preventing and suppressing rangeland fire
- Action item 6
  - ✓ Provide support to livestock grazing permittees and private land workers.
- Action item 7
  - ✓ Incentives for livestock producers
  - ✓ Develop scalable and adaptive grazing mgt. for reducing invasive grass fires.
- TWO MAIN APPROACHES
  1. Fuels reduction (possibly less animals)
  2. Restoration of perennial plants
    - a. To use livestock to reduce annual plants to favor desirable perennials
- To reduce fine fuels and wildfire:
  - ✓ Repeating appropriate grazing practices over a multi-year period under different climatic and growing conditions over diverse landscape. *\* doesn't require machinery or disturbing of the site.*

### Questions/ comments for Jeff from RAC:

- RAC raised concerns of where to store animals and feed throughout winter.

- There could be lifetime consequences of pregnant cattle that could create health risks for not only the cow, but the whole herd.
- Timing the breed to reduce spread of weed.
- Mismanaged grazing can result in a spread of cheatgrass
- Suggestions of a scientific article to show what's working
- Using carry over fuels
- Specialized business vs. permanent

Jeff takes in consideration the comment in the minutes—minutes served as a document sent to members of the RAC via email. 9:13 a.m.

### National Recreation Strategy: Chris Dent

- Original strategies focus on activities
- BLM didn't start on strategies until the 70s.
- The Purple Book (PAST)
  - ✓ "Build it and they will come!"
    - a. Built million dollar facilities that are no longer obtainable.
  - ✓ "You're my favorite user group!"
- New strategy is focusing on **Connecting with the community**
  - ✓ Focal Points
    - a. Social
    - b. Economical and Environmental
  - ✓ Brand
    - a. Backyard → Backcountry
- Sustainability
  - ✓ THE STRATEGY: "The intelligent allocation of limited resources..."
- **KEY CONCEPTS**
  - ✓ New opportunities must obtain significant socioeconomically benefits to the community.
  - ✓ Should be identified through collaborations
  - ✓ Build network
  - ✓ Capitalize on distinct products
  - ✓ Proximity to communities
- Getting users, community, and agencies in line → capacity potential increases
- State Step-Down Strategy
  - ✓ Lay the foundation
  - ✓ Build community relationships
  - ✓ Embrace tourism industry
- BLM Marketing: FLIKR, YouTube, Web Products, Interactive Maps, Top National BLM Sites

### Questions/ comments from RAC for Chris:

- Bike trail maintenance (Free fee)
  - ✓ EMBA covers cost; BLM doesn't pay
  - ✓ \$3-5 fee goes toward maintenance
  - ✓ National/ local agreements with EMBA
- 100% of fees go back to the project where fees collected on the ground
- Coos-Bay closed two campgrounds due to low use; Top ten sites based off capacity
- Discussions of marketing; decisions made locally
- Consolidation of property has to benefit the people

### Proposal from Lakeview BLM District Manager: **Keep Highway 395 well open OR close down**

- BLM sustains location with ODOT; used to be maintained by ODOT
- Money going into recreation is HIGH; BLM is questioning whether this amount of money going into the site is worth keeping it open
- Running off well water access
- Suggestion from RAC to plant tree to attract birds for marketing

### District Manager Reports and Projects:

#### Jeff Rose:

- Behind on roads
- Contractors working on large Juniper Cut
- Horse Coral—spade trial underway
- Harney County Wildfire Collaboration
  - ✓ Talks about issues with wild land fire prevention and suppression
- Prevention→ working towards not only preventing fire, but prevent the growth in size of fire.  
*\*24 members*
- Fire crews currently engaged; 100 firefighters on the ground
- District Manager job open—closes in July

#### Lakeview BLM:

- Perlite Proposed Expansion
- Lakeview Weed EA: 1<sup>st</sup> district to do EA
  - ✓ Spraying Medusa Head
  - ✓ Causing Beekeepers concern
- Resilient landscapes Project
- Sage-grouse Candidate Conservation CCA
- Extended Drought
- Feedback from Beatty Butte wild horse gather
  - ✓ Social media backlash

- ✓ Took community members out to view the project to help them obtain better knowledge of the project
- Local bee colony locations are unknown to the BLM → no known permit required to have a colony that is not on BLM land

#### **Vale District: Don Hodge—Presented by Larry Moore**

- Temporary grazing going on
- Reintroduction of livestock—discussion of temporary closure
- Measure of vegetation objectives
- Grazing after two growing seasons—range staff will review
- Monitory since May on Lost Canyon
- Monitory for permit renewal should be done for this winter
- Wildlife—completed four wildlife assessments
- Grazing management has been reported to Fish and Wildlife
- Annual sage-grouse has been completed
- Soda fire is being evaluated for sage-grouse habitat
- Miller Hornstead – birds stay for 2-3 years then population decreases
- Soil, water, and air program—on four areas \* Ecological site inventory (land classification)
- Field work was commenced for Lost Canyon GMA for end of summer
- Botney Value been working with restoration of sagebrush to restore the sage-grouse habitat
- Collecting seed this summer—test plots being done
- No wild horses were collected
  - ✓ Was approved for 50 to be collected in August

#### **Wild Horse:**

- Approval of animal welfare projects
- Board approved four projects—three in Burns, Oregon; one in Tennessee
- 50 horses on north end of Three Fingers
- Helicopter gather in the summer
- Bait trapping on Steins
  - ✓ Hopes to get 100 horses
- Palomino Valley → holding facility
  - ✓ Tours and adoption sites

#### **Code of Federal Regulations—43 CFR 1784**

- Standards and procedures
- “Idea Factory” → endorsement of existing plans
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
- Policy
  - ✓ To advise a secretary director to establish employees and committees

- Compositions
  - ✓ Structured to provide fair membership and balance
- Two year terms unless otherwise specified
  - ✓ Secretary has authority to reappoint members
- Charter allows minimum of two years, but appointed three years
- Charter decides who you talk to
  - ✓ Designated federal official
- Secretary can determine to go to higher authority
- Code requires that meetings are public
- Made known 15-30 days in advance
- Meetings are public to community and media
- Close adherence to an agenda which has been approved in advance
- Authorized representative may adjourn meeting at any time
- Shall be available to the public except:
  - ✓ Insufficient interest in participation
  - ✓ Funds—shall not provide information—do not discuss the trade-offs
- Persons appointed to resource advisory councils shall attend a course of instruction in the management of rangeland ecosystems
  - ✓ RAC provides public with more information on rangeland ecosystems
- Letting the public know how a grazing permit works

RAC provides handbook of regulations: Motion carries 2:27 p.m.

#### **Tri-State Fuels Project:**

- Large scale between Vale, Boise, and Winnemucca for fuel breaks and fire prevention
- Winnemucca has already put in fuel breaks
- At meeting 3: developed criteria to get fuel breaks on the ground
- Protection in habitat of sagebrush—what kind of protection is needed?
- Possibly obtaining Winnemucca's data on their current fuel breaks
- Possibly having Phil and Don go to Boise to discuss concerns

#### **RMP Amendment—Lakeview Resource Area**

- South Eastern Oregon RMP did not consider enough land to OHV traffic for broader area
- Settlement agreement signed in 2010
- Inventory on units has been updated
- June 2014→ came up with new document
  - ✓ Look at more lay of the land per unit
  - ✓ Hydrologic value of the desert—perennial of desert units
  - ✓ Vegetative component—high in annual grass (low)—high in perennial grass (high)
  - ✓

- Anticipating to bring up amendment next year

### Does the RAC want to move forward?

#### Public Comments:

##### Carla Bowers—Independent wild horse advocate

- Said to have valid ideas and wants feedback from the RAC—sent an email in April
- “How can we facilitate better communication with the public?”
- AML numbers are low; Bowers is concerned with the health risks of this
- BLM has taken land from the hears since the 70s
- Feels that horses are being treated poorly
- 

##### Marybeth Devlin—Independent wild horse advocate

- Three of HMA meet own genetic consultant for genetic liability
- 500 managed; 2500 not managed
- AML costs 4000 acres per horse on Beatty Butte
- There was backlash on the wild horse advocates
- A lot of negative publicity from Beatty Butte
- Pre-tax plunge 73 million
- Removal of over 1000 horses → **40% fewer than expected**
- Wants to reform AML

##### Susi Copert—Mt. Hood Rock Club

- 6000 rocks club members in Oregon
- Rock collection to be recreation
  - ✓ Depends on weight o
  - ✓ Depends on resale
- 80% willing to pay fees
- Trying to be able to pay for rock club
- Do not want to be commercial
- Mention to the RAC to bring possible funds to Mt. Hood Rock Club

# SOUTHEAST OREGON RAC SIGN-IN

June 13, 2016

Lakeview, OREGON

NAME	INTEREST	SIGNATURE
<b>Group 1 – Commodity</b>		
Brent Beverly	Commercial Recreation	
Sean Cunningham	Grazing Permit Holder	<i>Sean Cunningham</i>
Don Hodge	Transportation/Right-of-Way	<i>Don Hodge</i>
Ralph Stout	Commercial Timber	<i>Ralph Stout</i>
Robert Hogan	Energy/Minerals	
<b>Group 2 – Conservation</b>		
Anne Hiller-Clark	Archaeological/Historical	<i>Anne Hiller-Clark</i>
Richard Watts	Dispersed Recreation	<i>Richard C. Watts</i>
Mia Sheppard	Environmental Organizations	<i>Mia Sheppard</i>
Dan Morse	Environmental	<i>Dan Morse</i>
Dr. Julie Weikel	Wild Horse and Burro	<i>Julie Weikel</i>
<b>Group 3 – Community Interest</b>		
Jim Bishop	Public-at-Large	<i>Jim Bishop</i>
Gary Johnson	Public-at-Large	<i>Gary Johnson</i>
Phil Milburn	State Employee	<i>Phil Milburn</i>
Peter Runnels	Elected Official	
Jason Kesling	Public-at-Large/Burns Paiute Tribe	<i>Jason Kesling</i>

**Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council  
AGENDA**

<b><u>Monday, June 13, 2016</u></b>			
<b>Times</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Expectation</b>
8:00 – 8:30	Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping, Agenda Review	Larry Moore Don Gonzalez	Information
8:30 – 9:30	Targeted Grazing	Jeff Rose Sean Cunningham	Information
9:30 – 10:30	National Recreation Strategy	Zack Jarrett Chris Dent	Information
10:30 – 12:00	<u>District Projects and Reports</u> Sage-grouse Implementation	District Managers	Information
12:00 – 1:30	LUNCH		
1:30 – 3:00	Code of Federal Regulations Pertaining to RAC	Larry Moore District Managers	Information
3:00 – 3:30	Public Comment Period	Public	
3:30 – 4:30	Conclusions/Wrap-up/Topics for the next meeting	All	
6:00	Lakeridge Golf Course 94378 OR-140 Lakeview, OR 97630 (541) 947-3855		

**Lakeview BLM District Office  
1301 S G St, Lakeview, OR 97630  
Public Call-in number: 1-866-524-6456 Participant Code: 608605#**

**Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council  
AGENDA**

<b><u>Wednesday, June 15, 2016</u></b>		
<b>Times</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
TBD	<p style="text-align: center;">LWC Subcommittee Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mia Sheppard</li><li>• Dan Morse</li><li>• Philip Milburn</li><li>• Don Hodge</li><li>• Jim Bishop</li></ul>	Brent Grasty Vale District

**Lakeview BLM District Office  
1301 S G St, Lakeview, OR 97630  
Public Call-in number: 1-866-524-6456 Participant Code: 608605#**



## INFORMATION UPDATE

New Information Only

Vale District Office

BLM

### Update of Topics

(Please Note: Updated information reflects changes from last briefing)

#### Malheur Field Office

Pat Ryan, Field Manager: 541-473-6277

#### Range Program

- The Malheur range program continues to complete temporary grazing closures for the Soda, Leslie Gulch, Bendire and Jaca fires. Temporary closures, AUM reductions and objectives for reintroduction of livestock are being discussed with permittees and consultation, coordination and communication efforts will occur prior to implementation of a closure agreement or decision for the temporary closures. In light of new information, BLM reviewed past vegetative objectives and found adjustments were needed to measure the success of vegetative treatments or natural recovery. Temporary closures will be for a minimum of two growing seasons and until vegetative objectives are met, consistent with the 2002 Southeastern Oregon RMP and 2015 Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment.
- Monitoring of the Louse Canyon Geographic Management Area (GMA) began in mid-May. Permittees and interested public have been notified and encouraged to participate. The GMA consists of Louse Canyon Community, Star Valley Community, Anderson, and Campbell Allotments. Interdisciplinary teams will complete upland monitoring through the Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) strategy and Indicators for Rangeland Health protocols in addition to Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) for riparian areas. Monitoring for the permit renewal process is expected to be completed by winter 2016.

#### Wildlife Program

- MRA has completed 4 Biological Assessments (BA) and has received 3 Biological Opinions from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The BAs assess the effects of livestock grazing in several allotments in the Oregon Canyon and Trout Creek Mountains of southeastern Oregon. Grazing management reports for each BO have been submitted to USFWS.
- NEPA for stream crossing repair work on Little Whitehorse Creek north of the Oregon Canyon Mountains was finalized last year, but the repair work was delayed. Work is scheduled to begin in October, pending a cultural survey as required by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- Annual sage-grouse lek surveys have been completed by BLM, ODFW, and personnel from ODFW's Adopt-A-Lek Program.
- Plans and budgets are final for efforts to restore sage-grouse and big game habitat lost during the 2014 and 2015 wildland fires. Additional areas associated with the Soda fire are being evaluated for sagebrush and bitterbrush seedling plantings.

June 2016



## **Southeastern Oregon Mineral Withdrawal & Economic Preservation and Development Act Summary**

### **The Southeastern Oregon Mineral Withdrawal & Economic Preservation and Development Act has two primary goals:**

- Withdraw 2.065 million acres of federal land in Malheur County from mining exploration and operations;
- Support the communities in and around the withdrawal area to expand and modernize local agricultural practices, improve transportation infrastructure, and support job creation.

### **Mineral Withdrawal: Supporting the Existing Local Economy.**

Unfortunately, mining can be detrimental to local economies, potentially degrade the quality of the water that serves the cattle, the people and the environment, degrading grazing habitat, as well as other ecosystems, and causing great harm to the environment that supports cattle and sage grouse. Withdrawing this area from mining will protect the land and water, retaining their suitability for grazing and recreation activities already important to the local economy. The area selected for this mineral withdrawal is recognized for its importance to the local economic engines: cattle ranching, grazing, and tourism.

A mineral withdrawal means that no new mining claims can be made in the area and no new mines can be explored or developed. The mineral withdrawal does not impact other uses of the federal land, such as grazing or recreational uses like hiking, fishing, and hunting.

### **Economic Development: Supporting the Communities Reliant on This Land.**

In dozens of conversations, the people of the area identified economic drivers needed to protect the land while helping move the community forward in its economic development. The bill encapsulates many of these ideas:

- **Water Storage Projects:** accessing water for livestock and other wildlife, as well as for fighting wildfires, in Malheur County can be challenging. The bill directs the Department of Agriculture to provide grants for projects focusing on developing modern, efficient water storage systems providing more water for livestock, wildlife, and firefighting, while keeping rivers and streams clean and reducing the need to haul water long distances.
- **Better Roads:** one barrier to growing economies can be a lack of safe or sufficient roads. The bill provides grants to communities to improve agricultural and recreational roads and trails, allowing the easier movement of goods and people; it also authorizes a study of rural air services to support commercial, agricultural, firefighting, and recreation needs.
- **Jobs Training:** a well-trained and prepared workforce can improve local economies from the ground up and career-technical education is a key strategy within Malheur County's "Poverty to Prosperity" initiative. The bill provides grants to support programs that give young people career training, help support and train adults who are reentering the workforce or looking to improve their career opportunities, and introduce veterans and youth to farming and ranching.

# SOUTHEASTERN OREGON MINERAL WITHDRAWAL

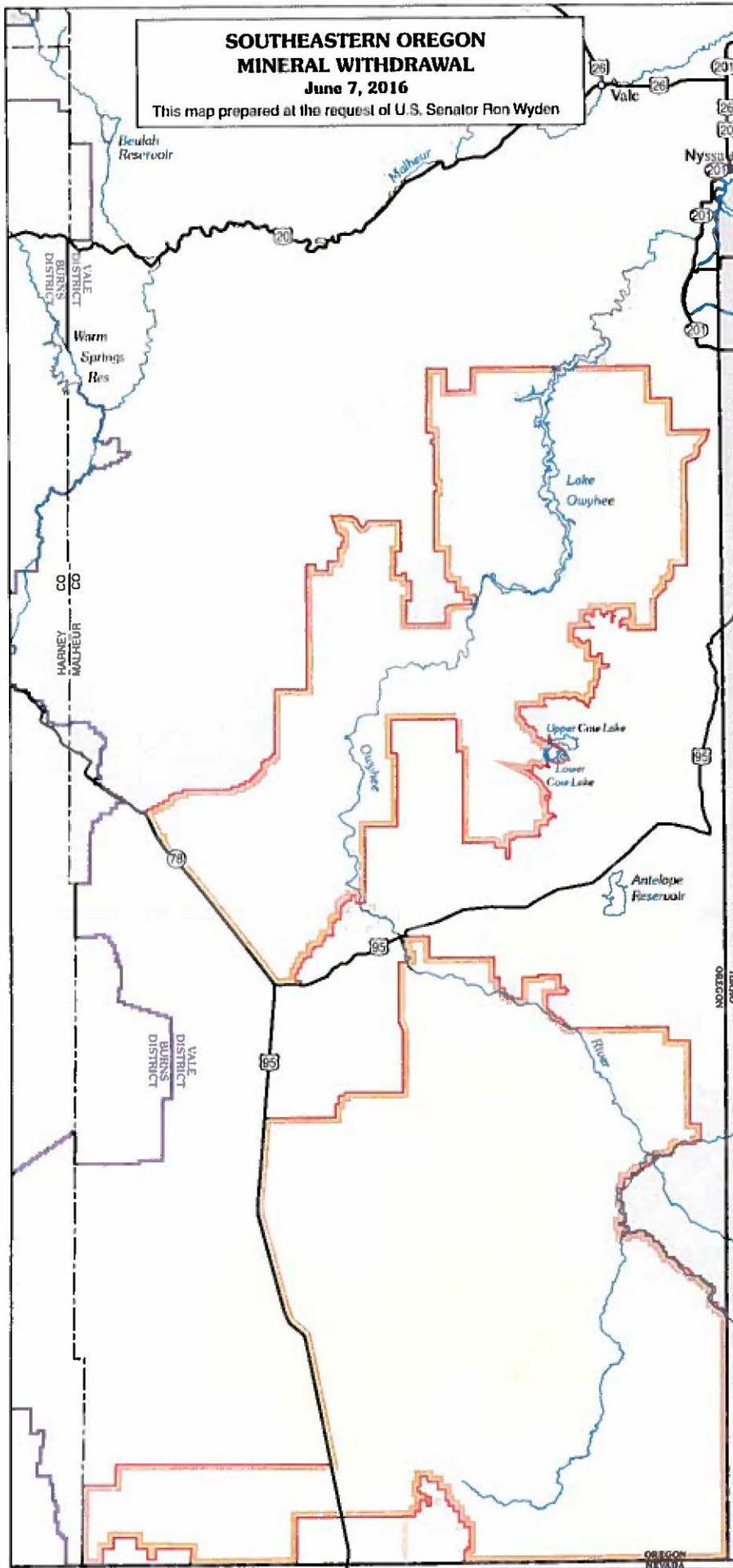
June 7, 2016

This map prepared at the request of U.S. Senator Ron Wyden



## LEGEND

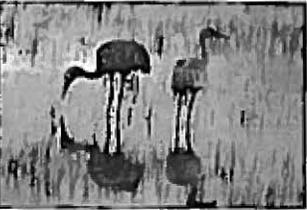
- Mineral Withdrawal
- US Highway
- State Highway
- Other Road
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- BLM District Boundary
- Administered Land**
- Bureau of Land Management
- Wilderness Study Area
- State Land
- Indian Reservation
- Other Federal Land
- Private or Other



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**Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council  
A Federal Advisory Committee**



**Council Members:**

Mona Drake  
Wannie Mackenzie  
Donald Hodge  
Robert Hogan  
Anne Hiller-Clark  
Mike King  
Matt Little  
Jean Findley  
Julie Weikel  
Jim Bishop  
Chad Boyd  
Philip Milburn  
Pete Runnels  
Jason Kesling

**Designated Federal Official:**

Brendan Cain  
Bureau of Land Management  
Burns District Office  
28910 Hwy 20 W  
Hines, Oregon 97738

Don Gonzales  
District Manager  
Vale District, Bureau of Land Management  
100 Oregon St.  
Vale, OR 97918

June 27, 2014

Mr. Gonzalez:

Attached to this letter please find a copy of the final Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council recommendations on prioritizing management for lands with wilderness characteristics (LWC) within the Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management. This document is meant to be a decision support tool for assigning relative management priority across LWC units. This document does not make specific recommendations on management practices or policies but does provide an index to the potential value of LWC units with respect to connectivity and hydrologic resources, and gauges the nature and degree of management inputs needed to maintain or restore plant community resources.

If you have any questions regarding our input please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Chad S. Boyd (on behalf of the SEORAC)  
Chairman, SEORAC

II = Large perennial bunchgrasses reduced in abundance and/or more spatially extensive patches of non-native annual grasses, and a sagebrush system that is unlikely to fully recover after disruption. A WC unit will score a 2 if the unit does not otherwise score a 1 or 3.

III = Predominance of non-native annual grasses or juniper. A WC unit will score a 3 if more than 66.6% of the acreage of that unit scores a 3.

**2) Hydrology** – For each unit, total miles of perennial and total miles of intermittent drainages will be displayed, along with the percentage of perennial plus intermittent miles each category represents. In units with sufficient Proper Functioning Condition data, those units will be scored a 1,2, or 3 based on the following criteria:

I = Predominance (over 66.6%) of the total miles of perennial and intermittent drainages in properly functional condition with upward or static trend.

II = Perennial and intermittent drainages largely functional but with downward trend.

III = Predominance (over 66.6%) of the total miles of perennial and intermittent drainages non-functional.

**3) Connectivity:** “Connectivity” refers to the spatial environment of a specific WC unit and rates that environment based on its proximity to other WC units. A high degree of connectivity (i.e., Category 1) indicates that a larger portion of the WC landscape may be positively impacted by management action relative to a lower scoring WC unit. Additionally, a high connectivity score suggests that a given unit could be important to increasing or maintaining wildlife travel between WC units. Special land use designations may be taken into account when determining connectivity because such designations can impact the degree of connectivity of a WC unit. However, this is not meant to imply that a WC unit will be subject to the same management guidance or policies as the adjoining special designation area.

I = Shares a border with 2 or more other WC units or if the unit is over 50,000 acres in size.

II = Shares a border with no more than 1 WC unit.

III= Does not border any other WC unit.

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To withdraw certain Federal land located in Malheur County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing laws, to provide for the conduct of certain economic activities in Malheur County, Oregon, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To withdraw certain Federal land located in Malheur County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing laws, to provide for the conduct of certain economic activities in Malheur County, Oregon, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 (5) WITHDRAWAL AREA.—The term “with-  
2 drawal area” means the Southeastern Oregon With-  
3 drawal Area established by section 102(a).

4 **TITLE I—SOUTHEASTERN**  
5 **OREGON WITHDRAWAL AREA**

6 **SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this title:

8 (1) ELIGIBLE FEDERAL LAND.—The term “eli-  
9 gible Federal land” means—

10 (A) any federally owned land or interest in  
11 the federally owned land depicted on the Map;  
12 and

13 (B) any land or interest in land located  
14 within the withdrawal area that is acquired by  
15 the Federal Government after the date of enact-  
16 ment of this Act.

17 (2) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-  
18 titled “Southeastern Oregon Mineral Withdrawal  
19 Map—Proposed” and dated June 7, 2016.

20 **SEC. 102. DESIGNATION OF SOUTHEASTERN OREGON WITH-**  
21 **DRAWAL AREA.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the South-  
23 eastern Oregon Withdrawal Area, comprising approxi-  
24 mately 2,065,000 acres of eligible Federal land in the  
25 County, as generally depicted on the Map.

1           (3)(A) to support the continuation of grazing in  
2 and around the withdrawal area; and

3           (B) to recognize the significance of grazing in  
4 the economy, history, and culture of the County.

5       (b) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after  
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
8 shall file with the Committee on Energy and Natural  
9 Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Nat-  
10 ural Resources of the House of Representatives a  
11 map and legal description of the withdrawal area.

12           (2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The map and legal  
13 description filed under paragraph (1) shall have the  
14 same force and effect as if included in this title, ex-  
15 cept that the Secretary may correct clerical and ty-  
16 pographical errors in the map and legal description.

17           (3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal descrip-  
18 tion filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and  
19 available for public inspection in—

20                   (A) the office of the Director of the Bu-  
21 reau of Land Management; and

22                   (B) the appropriate office of the Bureau of  
23 Land Management in the State.

1 Secretary of Agriculture may provide grants for projects  
2 in the State to update or replace watering systems within  
3 the boundary of the withdrawal area with more efficient  
4 systems.

5 **SEC. 202. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL CENTER**  
6 **FOR EXCELLENCE.**

7 The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an Agri-  
8 cultural Center for Excellence to be located in the Coun-  
9 ty—

10 (1) to collaborate with the Department of Agri-  
11 culture Research Station in Harney County, Oregon,  
12 Oregon State University, local agricultural pro-  
13 ducers, and other entities, as appropriate;

14 (2) to conduct rangeland and grazing research,  
15 including the conduct of research that addresses  
16 invasive species and water storage improvements for  
17 livestock and wildlife;

18 (3) to collaborate with agricultural researchers  
19 and producers in the County and surrounding area  
20 to improve grazing practices; and

21 (4) to provide to the Director of the Bureau of  
22 Land Management any findings of the Center to as-  
23 sist in preparing applicable allotment management  
24 plans.

1 work burden imposed on recipients of financial assistance  
2 under this section.”.

3 (b) SURPLUS EQUIPMENT PROGRAM.—The Secre-  
4 taries of Homeland Security and Defense and the Sec-  
5 retary (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretaries”)  
6 shall establish a program within the Departments of  
7 Homeland Security, Defense, and the Interior, respec-  
8 tively, under which the Secretaries shall transfer to States  
9 and units of local government surplus equipment of the  
10 applicable Department that can be used in firefighting, in-  
11 cluding surplus mechanical equipment and communication  
12 devices.

13 (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUEL BREAKS ALONG CER-  
14 TAIN ELIGIBLE ACCESS ROADS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
16 a program within the Bureau of Land Management  
17 for the establishment and maintenance of strategic  
18 fuel breaks from which firefighters would be able to  
19 safely operate—

20 (A) to preserve critical sage grouse habitat;

21 and

22 (B) to support the ranching community in  
23 the vicinity of the fuel breaks.

1           (2) **ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY.**—An eligible com-  
2           munity referred to in paragraph (1) is a community  
3           that is—

4                   (A) incorporated or recognized in the  
5           County land use plan or a regional land use  
6           plan; or

7                   (B) within tribal jurisdictional boundaries  
8           in the County.

9           (3) **APPLICATION.**—To be eligible to receive a  
10          grant under this subsection an eligible community  
11          described in paragraph (2) shall submit to the Sec-  
12          retary an application at such time, in such manner,  
13          and containing such information as the Secretary  
14          may require.

15          **(b) STUDY OF RURAL AIR SERVICE.**—

16               (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after  
17          the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
18          Transportation shall conduct a study of infrastruc-  
19          ture needs in rural communities and improvements  
20          for rural air services and infrastructure that would  
21          support commercial, charter, or subscription air  
22          service at the Ontario Municipal Airport, which shall  
23          focus on—

24                   (A) the air service needs of the County and  
25          surrounding areas;

1           (3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
2 grant under this subsection, the State shall submit  
3 to the Secretary of Transportation an application at  
4 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
5 formation as the Secretary of Transportation may  
6 require.

7 (d) TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transpor-  
9 tation shall provide financial assistance to the Coun-  
10 ty for the conduct of projects that would improve—

11                   (A) the downtown area of the City and  
12 surrounding communities; and

13                   (B) transportation within the City, includ-  
14 ing—

15                           (i) projects relating to—

16                                   (I) pedestrian, bicycle, and tran-  
17 sit access in the City; and

18                                   (II) safety corridors in the City;

19                           (ii) projects to improve access to, and  
20 improvements for, trails along riverfronts  
21 in the City; and

22                           (iii) projects to ensure the availability  
23 of transit for senior citizens.

24           (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive fi-  
25 nancial assistance under this subsection, the County

1 or organization or a consortium of public or pri-  
2 vate nonprofit agencies or organizations.

3 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “eligible enti-  
4 ty” includes—

5 (i) a community-based organization;

6 (ii) a faith-based organization;

7 (iii) an entity carrying out activities  
8 under title I of the Workforce Innovation  
9 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111 et  
10 seq.), such as a local board;

11 (iv) a community action agency;

12 (v) a State or local housing develop-  
13 ment agency;

14 (vi) an Indian tribe or other agency  
15 primarily serving members of Indian  
16 tribes;

17 (vii) a community development cor-  
18 poration;

19 (viii) a State or local youth service or  
20 conservation corps; and

21 (ix) any other entity eligible to provide  
22 education or employment training under a  
23 Federal program (other than the program  
24 carried out under this section).

**1 SEC. 206. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
3 as are necessary to carry out this title.



**INFORMATION UPDATE**  
New Information Only

Vale District Office

BLM

**Update of Topics**

(Please Note: Updated information reflects changes from last briefing)

**Malheur Field Office**

**Pat Ryan, Field Manager: 541-473-6277**

**Range Program**

- The Malheur range program continues to complete temporary grazing closures for the Soda, Leslie Gulch, Bendirc and Jaca fires. Temporary closures, AUM reductions and objectives for reintroduction of livestock are being discussed with permittees and consultation, coordination and communication efforts will occur prior to implementation of a closure agreement or decision for the temporary closures. In light of new information, BLM reviewed past vegetative objectives and found adjustments were needed to measure the success of vegetative treatments or natural recovery. Temporary closures will be for a minimum of two growing seasons and until vegetative objectives are met, consistent with the 2002 Southeastern Oregon RMP and 2015 Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment.
- Monitoring of the Louse Canyon Geographic Management Area (GMA) began in mid-May. Permittees and interested public have been notified and encouraged to participate. The GMA consists of Louse Canyon Community, Star Valley Community, Anderson, and Campbell Allotments. Interdisciplinary teams will complete upland monitoring through the Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) strategy and Indicators for Rangeland Health protocols in addition to Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) for riparian areas. Monitoring for the permit renewal process is expected to be completed by winter 2016.

**Wildlife Program**

- MRA has completed 4 Biological Assessments (BA) and has received 3 Biological Opinions from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The BAs assess the effects of livestock grazing in several allotments in the Oregon Canyon and Trout Creek Mountains of southeastern Oregon. Grazing management reports for each BO have been submitted to USFWS.
- NEPA for stream crossing repair work on Little Whitehorse Creek north of the Oregon Canyon Mountains was finalized last year, but the repair work was delayed. Work is scheduled to begin in October, pending a cultural survey as required by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- Annual sage-grouse lek surveys have been completed by BLM, ODFW, and personnel from ODFW's Adopt-A-Lek Program.
- Plans and budgets are final for efforts to restore sage-grouse and big game habitat lost during the 2014 and 2015 wildland fires. Additional areas associated with the Soda fire are being evaluated for sagebrush and bitterbrush seedling plantings.

June 2016



## **Southeastern Oregon Mineral Withdrawal & Economic Preservation and Development Act Summary**

### **The Southeastern Oregon Mineral Withdrawal & Economic Preservation and Development Act has two primary goals:**

- Withdraw 2.065 million acres of federal land in Malheur County from mining exploration and operations;
- Support the communities in and around the withdrawal area to expand and modernize local agricultural practices, improve transportation infrastructure, and support job creation.

### **Mineral Withdrawal: Supporting the Existing Local Economy.**

Unfortunately, mining can be detrimental to local economies, potentially degrade the quality of the water that serves the cattle, the people and the environment, degrading grazing habitat, as well as other ecosystems, and causing great harm to the environment that supports cattle and sage grouse. Withdrawing this area from mining will protect the land and water, retaining their suitability for grazing and recreation activities already important to the local economy. The area selected for this mineral withdrawal is recognized for its importance to the local economic engines: cattle ranching, grazing, and tourism.

A mineral withdrawal means that no new mining claims can be made in the area and no new mines can be explored or developed. The mineral withdrawal does not impact other uses of the federal land, such as grazing or recreational uses like hiking, fishing, and hunting.

### **Economic Development: Supporting the Communities Reliant on This Land.**

In dozens of conversations, the people of the area identified economic drivers needed to protect the land while helping move the community forward in its economic development. The bill encapsulates many of these ideas:

- **Water Storage Projects:** accessing water for livestock and other wildlife, as well as for fighting wildfires, in Malheur County can be challenging. The bill directs the Department of Agriculture to provide grants for projects focusing on developing modern, efficient water storage systems providing more water for livestock, wildlife, and firefighting, while keeping rivers and streams clean and reducing the need to haul water long distances.
- **Better Roads:** one barrier to growing economies can be a lack of safe or sufficient roads. The bill provides grants to communities to improve agricultural and recreational roads and trails, allowing the easier movement of goods and people; it also authorizes a study of rural air services to support commercial, agricultural, firefighting, and recreation needs.
- **Jobs Training:** a well-trained and prepared workforce can improve local economies from the ground up and career-technical education is a key strategy within Malheur County's "Poverty to Prosperity" initiative. The bill provides grants to support programs that give young people career training, help support and train adults who are reentering the workforce or looking to improve their career opportunities, and introduce veterans and youth to farming and ranching.

# SOUTHEASTERN OREGON MINERAL WITHDRAWAL

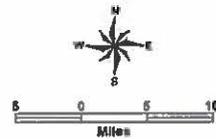
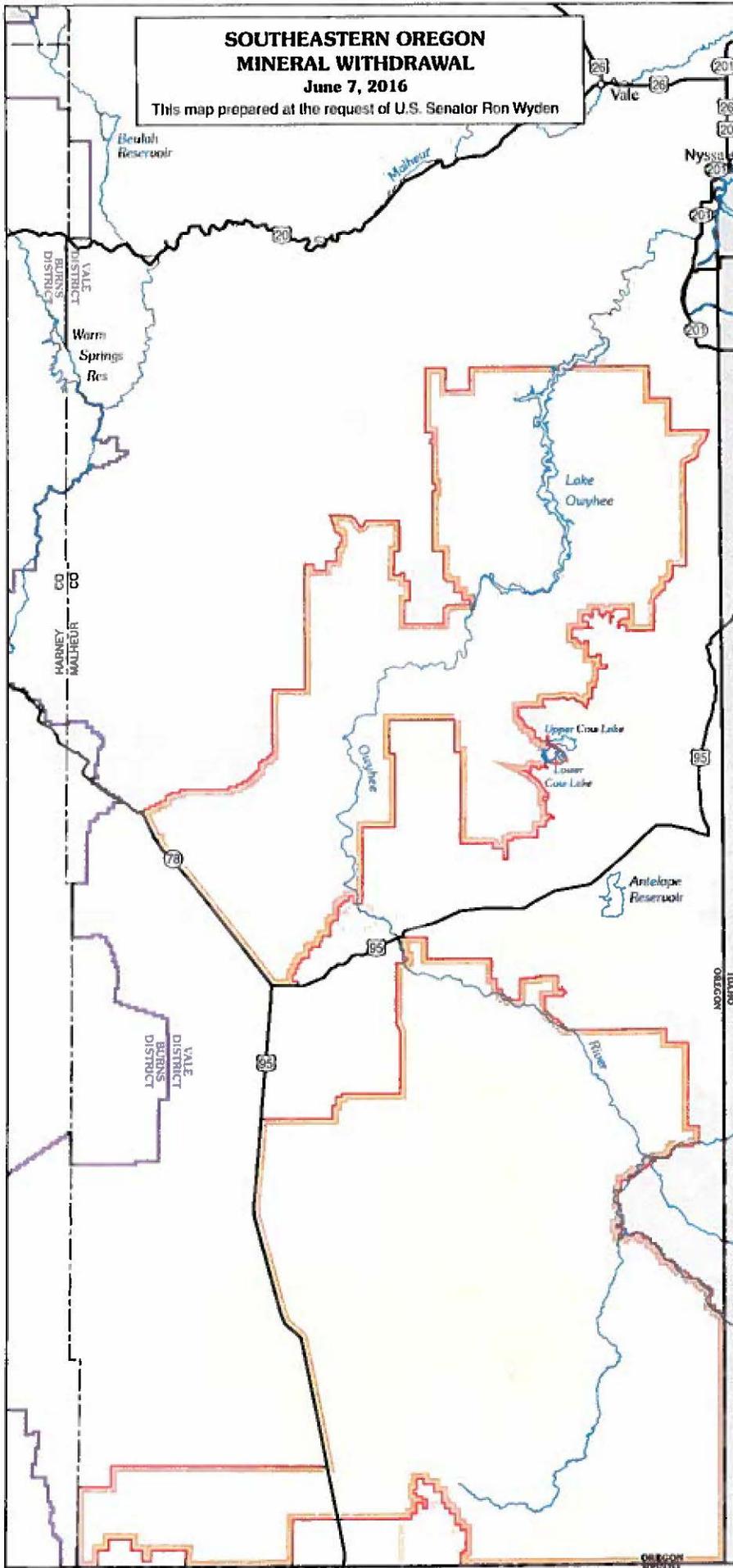
June 7, 2016

This map prepared at the request of U.S. Senator Ron Wyden



## LEGEND

- Mineral Withdrawal
- US Highway
- State Highway
- Other Road
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- BLM District Boundary
- Administered Land**
- Bureau of Land Management
- Wilderness Study Area
- State Land
- Indian Reservation
- Other Federal Land
- Private or Other



All accuracy is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. No individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were supplied from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. 8/10-10/21



**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Lakeview Resource Area**  
**Information for the Southeast OR Resource Advisory Council**  
**June 13, 2016**

**Major Project Updates - (new information is in Blue text)**

- **Tucker Hill Perlite Mine Proposed Expansion:** The LVRA received a proposal from Cornerstone Mining to develop a new mining area at the Tucker Hill Perlite Mine which is located at Tucker Hill, Oregon. Tucker Hill is located in the Chewuacan Marsh area between Valley Falls, Oregon and Paisley, Oregon. As part of the Section 106 Archaeological Process, pertaining to the management of cultural sites, the mining company has retained the services of an archaeological consultant to conduct a new survey of the proposed mining area and to evaluate the significance of sites located within the area. Most site testing has been completed and is determining if these sites are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. All of the tribes have been contacted regarding this project and the Burns Paiute and Klamath Tribes are actively engaged in project discussions.

**6/2016 Update:** Each of the Tribes except for Warm Springs sent a tribal representative to a May 2016 field trip of the mine expansion area. Each tribe has their own ethnographer that will prepare ethnographic studies. The contractor is working on the EIS and as of this date is close to completing Chapter 2

- **BLM Internal Review / Quality Control for Lands with Wilderness Character (LWC) Determinations:** Oregon BLM has completed a process and consistency review of Wilderness Character Inventory Assessments by different BLM Districts. The Lakeview Resource Area (LRA) is actively reviewing completed LWC evaluations to determine which ones will require a more in depth review.

Once reviews are complete and the LRA has completed its LWC determinations, the LRA will present its finding to the RAC and ask for assistance to determine how best manage these areas given direction in the Lakeview RMP amendment.

**6/2016 Update:** A Field trip will be conducted with the RAC on June 14, 2016 to discuss LWC process.

- **Lakeview Weed EA:** The Lakeview District was the first office to complete a step-down vegetation management EA. The Lakeview Integrated Vegetation Management EA went out for public comment in July 2015. Two comment letters were received, one from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and one from Oregon Wild. The BLM made some minor changes to the EA based on public comments and signed a Decision Record on July 10, 2015 for the majority of the LRA. No appeals we files and this EA is in effect for the LRA, excluding the Warner Basin.

**6/2016 Update:** The BLM has implemented weed control throughout the Resource Area including the Warner Basin.

- **Resilient Landscapes Project** – The Greater Sheldon Hart Mountain Resilient Landscapes Collaborative received approximately 4 million dollars in funding in May for 2015 (\$1.59 Million BLM). This collaborative is a partnership between the USFWS, BLM, ODFW, Lake County SWCD, Local Watershed Councils and



## **Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Committee Lakeview District project proposals**

June, 2016

- **Lands With Wilderness Character Management** - Once the Lakeview BLM has finished the LWC inventory, we will need to decide how LWC's are managed. This decision process occurs during Land Use Planning in the RMP. We would like to present the RAC with a matrix of LWC areas similar to the one presented by Vale. We would be asking the RAC to assist us in determining how to manage each LWC area.
  
- **National Recreation Strategy** - Our new National Recreation Strategy and the Oregon 20/20 plan direct us to increase our recreation partnerships with local communities and organizations. We need some assistance in figuring out how to do this in remote locations like Lake County. Our national strategy also asks us to examine recreation infrastructure that doesn't serve us or the public very well. We would like the RAC's assistance in helping us develop some of these connections to potential partners as well as assist us in determining if we should discontinue use of any of our recreation infrastructure.
  
- **How can the BLM better serve the public using technology?** – The BLM is considering how we can better serve the public using technology (Internet, GPS, GIS, etc.). It is difficult for the BLM to keep up the pace with constantly changing technology and ability with security restrictions. Recreation users are now relying on technology to find exciting places to visit and get them from point A to Point B. Along with these increases in technology come some pitfalls: folk get lost using GPS because of the lack of coverage, interference, and changing GIS maps; folks get stuck driving passenger cars on rough roads in unfamiliar territory and without field gear preparation; an increase in disturbance and trash from visitor use where there was little or none before impacts wildlife and private property. We would also consider the Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon Parks proposals into this project.