

From: Hawks, Robin
To: downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov; [Randal Bowman](#); katherine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov; [John Ruhs](#); [Aaron Thiele](#); [Kathleen Benedetto](#); [Peter Mali](#); [Theresa Hanley](#); [Christopher McAlear](#)
Subject: Cascade-Siskiyou briefing paper update
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Attachments: [CSNM Briefing Paper+BP agm no track changes.docx](#)
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Please find attached an updated briefing paper on Cascade-Siskiyou that incorporates the additional information on acres and percent of private lands that was requested in last night's briefing.

v/r Robin Hawks

Robin D. Hawks, Ph.D.
Acting Deputy Assistant Director
National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships
Bureau of Land Management
Desk Phone: 202-219-3180
Cell Phone: 202-713-8141
rhawks@blm.gov

**BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING DEPUTY
CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE SECRETARY**

DATE: July 8, 2017
FROM: Mike Nedd, Acting Director
SUBJECT: Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

The purpose of this briefing memorandum is to provide an overview of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in preparation of Secretary Zinke's upcoming site visit.

KEY POINTS

Stakeholder Positions

- Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced the *Oregon and California Land Grant Act of 2015* (S. 132), where a portion of the CSNM expansion area was under a forest emphasis designation and a portion was under a conservation designation, and where timber harvest would take place within both designations.
 - For the conservation designation the bill would take half of eligible acres off the table and spread them out over 50 years for the purpose of commercial thinning (in stands less than 150 years in age).
- A public meeting was held in October 2016 in Ashland, OR, to hear public opinions about the CSNM expansion proposal. Approximately 500 people attended the meeting; the majority in support of the expansion proposal. The counties of Jackson (OR), Klamath (OR), and Siskiyou (CA) also hosted public input meetings for the monument expansion proposal. Collectively, approximately 600 people attended these county meetings.
- A written comment period was sponsored by Senators Wyden and Merkley. A total of 5,488 comments were received; approximately three-fourths were in favor of the expansion for scientific, recreational, environmental and economic reasons.
- State Representatives Peter Buckley and Kevin Talbert, and the late State Senator Alan Bates, publicly endorsed the expansion. The two closest cities in OR, Ashland and Talent (City Councils, Mayors, and Chambers of Commerce), all formally endorsed expanding the Monument.
- The Klamath Tribes submitted a letter of support, noting that the expansion area is “critical to provide for more appropriate watershed scale management...” (November 2016).

- Opponents expressed concern that a larger Monument would hurt the region's economy with limits on logging and grazing.
- The Jackson County Board of Commissioners, Klamath County Board of Commissioners, Medford/Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, and Siskiyou County Supervisors expressed opposition to expansion. The objections included legal and economic impacts, as well as a lack of consensus on the scientific merits.


Timber Harvest

A substantial number of acres within both the original Monument and the expansion area are designated as Oregon and California Revested (O&C) Railroad Lands. These lands are covered by the O&C Act of 1937, which mandates that those lands determined to be suitable for timber production shall be managed for, “permanent forest production and the timber shall be sold, cut and removed in conformity with the principal [stet] of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber supply, protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow, and contributing the economic stability of local communities and industry, and providing recreational facilities.” The original Monument designation and the expansion prohibit commercial timber harvest, but allow certain types of non-commercial, restoration vegetation management.

- There are currently three lawsuits alleging the designation of the expansion area violates the O&C Act by prohibiting commercial timber harvest. (Association of O&C Counties. v. Trump, No. 1:17-cv-00280-RJL (D.D.C. filed on February 13, 2017); Murphy Co. v. Trump, No. 1:17-cv-00285-CL (D. Or. filed on February 17, 2017); AFRC v. United States, No. 1:17-cv-00441-RJL (D.D.C. filed on March 10, 2017)).
- Within the original CSNM designation, 36,000 (0.036 million) board feet have been harvested; timber was removed only for the purposes of public safety.
- Within the Monument expansion, approximately 310,000 (0.310 million) board feet have been harvested from within the OR portion of the expansion area under timber sale contracts that were entered into prior to January 12, 2017. The contracts are considered valid existing rights and will be completed, including the approximately 2.9 million board feet of timber that remain to be harvested. (The Howard, South Fork Little Butte and Pine Plantation thinning Sales, and the Surveyor Salvage, Jigsaw, and Mid-Spencer timber sales were under contract at the time of the CSNM Expansion on January 12, 2017).
- About 238 acres and 1,212 thousand board feet of the Howard Timber Sale, and 191 acres and

1,600 thousand board feet of the South Fork Little Butte Timber Sale is located within the expansion boundary. The Pine Plantation sale (82 acres and 121 thousand board feet) is located entirely within the CSNM expansion area.

- Under the 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan, approximately 19,400 acres of BLM-administered lands (of the roughly 52,000 acres originally designated in 2000) were allocated to Southern General Forest Management Area with a primary objective of providing a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products. No current information is readily available regarding the amount of volume that may have been produced from these acres since the monument was designated, though the area is characterized as having low site capabilities, and relative to other areas in the Medford District, is considered a low timber production area.

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- The Harvest Land Base within in the Oregon expansion area were estimated under the recently signed 2016 Southwest Oregon RMP to produce approximately 1-2 million board feet per year in the Medford sustained yield unit, and 3-4 million board feet per year in the Klamath Falls sustained yield unit. An additional 400 thousand board feet of timber was projected to come from restorative commercial harvests in lands allocated to reserves in Medford.
- The site conditions of the California portion of the expansion area do not support commercial-grade timber resources.

Grazing

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 enabled grazing leases within the CSNM to be voluntarily retired.

- The Soda Mountain, Keene Creek, and Jenny Creek leases administered by the Medford District BLM in the monument were voluntarily relinquished by the lessees, and after a third party bought out the leases, were permanently retired.
- A small lease (5 AUM) on the Box R Ranch was voluntarily relinquished and retired as part of a congressionally-authorized land exchange within the CSNM. Two allotments were vacant at the time of designation (Agate and Siskiyou), and the Proclamation

directed voluntarily relinquished allotments not be reallocated for forage.

Tribal

- The CSNM is culturally significant to the Grand Ronde, Siletz, Shasta and Klamath Tribes. There are 214 cultural resource sites recorded within the Monument. Many historic sites are related to early 18th century homesteading and livestock rearing activities.
- Klamath Tribal members participate in a Pan-Indian Sundance Ceremony that is held annually within Monument. The ceremony attracts up to 500 people of both native and non-native ancestry that participate in the Sundance.
- The Maka Oyate Sundance event is not officially associated with a Federally Recognized Tribe; however, participants in the ceremony include members of the Klamath Tribes which is a Federally Recognized Tribe.

BACKGROUND

- The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) was established by Presidential Proclamation 7318 on June 9, 2000 as an 85,145 acre Monument, of which 65,269 were BLM-managed. It was the first such area to be established primarily to protect biodiversity.
- On January 12, 2017 the Monument was expanded by 85,264 acres, of which 47,660 acres were BLM-managed.
- The original Monument included 19,818 private acres (23.2%) and the 2017 extension included 32,677 private acres (38.3), for a total of 52,485 (30.7%) private acreage.
- The CSNM accommodates hunting, fishing, recreation, grazing, and valid existing rights such as leases and rights-of-way, among other activities, while protecting the historic and scientific resources identified in the Proclamation as well as providing opportunities for scientific study.
- The Monument contains rare and endemic plants such as Greene's Mariposa lily, Gentner's fritillary, and Bellinger's meadowfoam. It also includes 38 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and the 24,707-acre Soda Mountain Wilderness Area.
- Only the original CSNM has a stand-alone Resource Management Plan (RMP), which was completed in August 2008. The expansion is currently covered by two existing RMP's. The Oregon portion of the expansion area is covered by the 2016 Southwest Oregon RMP and the California portion of the expansion by the 1993 Redding RMP.
- The potential for coal, oil, gas and renewables in this area and within the Monument is low to non-existent.
- Since FY2010, 12,288 acres inside the Monument have been acquired, primarily through use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

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