



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Northwest Oregon District Office
1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon 97306
<http://www.blm.gov>



MAR 13 2017

*Bi-County Timber Management project
DOI-BLM-ORWA-N010-2017-0008-EA*

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cascades Field Office, Northwest Oregon District Office (previously the Salem District Office) is considering the Bi-County Timber Management Project (Bi-County) located in Township 6 South, Range 1 East, Sections 13 and 25, and Township 7 South, Range 2 East, Sections 9, 15, 23, 27, and 33. The Bi-County project is approximately 10 miles east of the City of Silverton and located within Marion and Clackamas Counties, Oregon, within the Abiqua-Pudding Creek, Butte-Pudding Creek, and Rock Creek 5th field Watersheds (see Enclosed Maps). The purpose of the project is to achieve specific objectives identified in the 2016 Northwestern and Coastal Oregon Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) for the Moderate Intensity Timber Area (MITA) portion of the Harvest Land Base Land Use Allocation (LUA).

Approximately 705 acres of 40 to 130 year old conifer stands are proposed for regeneration harvest and commercial thinning. This area analyzed will be divided into multiple timber sales for implementation. The BLM is considering the Bi-County project to meet the Harvest Land Base LUA general management objectives and direction, including:

- Manage forest stands to achieve continual timber production that can be sustained through a balance of growth and harvest and offer for sale the declared Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) of timber (ROD/RMP p. 59);
- Conduct silvicultural treatments to contribute timber volume to the ASQ (ROD/RMP p. 59); and
- Conduct silvicultural treatments to enhance timber values and to reduce fire risks and insect and disease outbreaks (ROD/RMP p. 59).

Within the Harvest Land Base, regeneration harvest may be conducted for a number of reasons, including any of the following (ROD/RMP pp.59-60):

- Produce Timber to contribute to the attainment of the declared ASQ;
- Adjust the age class distribution in each sustained-yield unit;
- Convert stands capable of supporting conifer species that are currently growing primarily hardwoods or shrubs to a mix of conifer and hardwood species suitable to the site;
- Create growing space for hardwood and pine species persistence and regeneration;
- Produce complex early-successional ecosystems; and
- Reset stand development in overly dense stands that would not respond well to commercial thinning.

Within the Harvest Land Base, commercial thinning may be conducted for a number of reasons, including any of the following (ROD/RMP p. 60):

- Produce timber to contribute to the attainment of the declared ASQ;
- Adjust stand composition or dominance; and
- Promote or enhance the development of structural complexity.

The enclosed maps show the potential regeneration and thinning units as well as other related features. Related activities being considered for the project include renovating existing roads and/or constructing new roads to provide access for logging, decommissioning or closing and stabilizing roads after logging, maintaining roads, improving or replacing culverts, potential low water crossings, and fuels treatment.

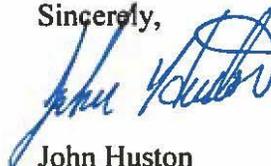
You have been identified as someone who might have specific knowledge or interest in the proposed area. The purpose of this letter is to give you an opportunity to share any information or concerns you may have about the project. The input you provide will help an interdisciplinary team of BLM natural resource specialists to develop design features for the project and to assess the potential environmental effects. Most areas proposed for treatment are currently behind locked gates. BLM can provide escorted public access to these areas. Please contact John Huston at 503-315-5969 to schedule access.

A Project Comment Form is enclosed. I would appreciate your written comments by close of business on April 13th, 2017. Written comments may be sent to John Huston, Cascades Field Manager, BLM Northwest Oregon District, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, or submitted by email to jhuston@blm.gov. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Northwest Oregon District Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of environmental analysis documents or related correspondence.

Additional information can be found at the Bi-County Project ePlanning webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/BiCountyProject>. Comments may also be submitted via ePlanning under the "Documents" section on the left side of the webpage.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,



John Huston
Field Manager, Cascades Field Office

Enclosures