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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Salem District Office
1717 Fabry Road S.E.
Salem, Oregon 97306
http://www.or.blm.gov/salem/

September 27th, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is considering three forest thinning projects in the Cascades Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management, Salem District. The purpose of these projects is to achieve specific objectives identified in the Salem BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Matrix and Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocations on approximately 2800 acres of BLM-administered lands by reducing the density of trees in developing forest stands. Other potential activities may include road construction or the renovation of existing roads that access thinning areas, and the decommissioning or blocking of roads after thinning.

The Gordon Creek project is in the Gordon Creek watershed approximately 5 miles east of the City of Corbett in Multnomah County, Oregon. The proposed thinning units are located within Sections 1, 3, 9 11, 13 and 15 of Township 1 South, Range 5 East, Willamette Meridian. The BeeLine project area is in the Lower Molalla and Upper Molalla watersheds approximately 4 miles southeast of Colton in Clackamas County, Oregon. The proposed thinning units are located within Sections 3, 10, 17 and 21 of Township 5 South, Range 4 East, Willamette Meridian. The McDowell Creek project area is in the Hamilton Creek watershed approximately 6 miles north of Sweet Home in Linn County, Oregon. The proposed thinning units are located within Sections 21, 25 and 27 of Township 12 South, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian (see enclosed maps).

You have been identified as someone who might have specific knowledge or interest in this area. The purpose of this letter is to give you an opportunity to share any information or concerns you may have about the projects. 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.

The enclosed maps show the locations of the potential thinning units. Detailed maps are available upon request. Also enclosed are Question and Answer Information Sheets and Project Comment Forms. I would appreciate your written comments by October 26th, 2006. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Salem District Office during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to

2007 Thinning Projects
Question and Answer Information Sheet
September 27th 2006

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recognizes the potential public interest in this project. Below are some questions and answers that we hope will provide helpful information about this project. Be sure to return the enclosed Project Comment Form with your name and address if you wish to be added to this project's mailing list.

What is BLM's management direction for this area?

The BLM-administered lands in these projects are identified in the Salem District Resource Management Plan (RMP, May 1995) as having a General Forest Management Area (GFMA) or Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocation.

- Management direction for GFMA calls for providing a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products in a manner that contributes to community stability and jobs while providing for important ecological functions.
- Riparian Reserves are designated corridors around streams and wet areas with a management direction that focuses on meeting the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) objectives identified in the Salem District RMP. Thinning may be applied to acquire vegetation characteristics needed to attain ACS Objectives.

Why are we proposing this project now?

Our timber management planning process has identified approximately 2800 acres of BLM-administered lands in the four watersheds (See Project Maps) for which thinning would maintain or enhance healthy growth. These stands range from 30 to 115 years in age, and are overstocked with trees. Stands with very high tree densities generally have slower tree growth, increased tree mortality, and reduced overall forest health and diversity. Thinning these stands now will contribute to the management objectives identified in the RMP for each land use allocation, and will result in more diverse wildlife habitat conditions in a shorter period of time.

Beeline Thinning Project Comment Form

Name _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip _____

Representing _____ Telephone _____

☐ Please add me to your mailing list for this project.

Comments: _____

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Please feel free to enclose additional sheets if needed.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Salem District Office during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of environmental analysis documents or related correspondence. 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.

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Attention: Rudy Hefter
Acting Cascades Field Manager
BLM - Salem District
1717 Fabry Road, SE
Salem, OR 97306

Gordon Creek Thinning Project Comment Form

Name _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip _____

Representing_____ Telephone _____

☐ Please add me to your mailing list for this project.

Comments:_____

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McDowell Creek Thinning Project Comment Form

Name _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip _____

Representing_____ Telephone _____

☐ Please add me to your mailing list for this project.

Comments:_____

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