

Medford's Messenger Fall 2018/ Winter 2019



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

Fall 2018 / Winter 2019

Dear Public Land User:

We be a series of the Sall 2018/Winter 2019 edition of the *Medford's Messenger*, the Medford District BLM's regular update on our land management project planning. This edition follows two significant events. First, August 5, 2018 marks two years since the signing of the 2016 Southwestern Oregon Resource Management Plan (SWO RMP). The SWO RMP directs the management of all lands administered by the Medford District BLM (except those within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument). This date was significant because it signaled the close of the "transition period" between the 1995 RMP and the 2016 RMP. The BLM will no longer be planning projects based on the older 1995 RMP management direction or the Northwest Forest Plan; all new actions will be based on the newer, updated management direction in the 2016 RMP.*

The second significant event was the end of the Medford BLM 2018 fire season on October 29. The 2018 fire season was one of the most challenging in years, with multiple large fires burning in southwest Oregon and on BLM-administered lands within the Medford District. We are grateful for the tireless efforts of our many firefighters and support personnel this year. In some locations, the fires served an important, natural ecological function-clearing out underbrush and providing a valuable thinning and restorative effect. In other locations, however, severe burns left forest stands dead and dying.

What does that mean for Medford BLM's work in the past few months and coming year? The 2016 SWO RMP directs us in certain portions of our land base (known as the "Harvest Land Base") to salvage burnt timber with the intent of recovering the economic value in those stands. In other areas of our land base ("Reserve" areas), the RMP directs us to remove burnt trees for only safety reasons or as needed to promote the development of habitat and fire resilient forests. In response to the fires, we have already begun implementing projects to remove roadside hazards, and we will continue to do so. In the Harvest Land Base, we are planning sales to salvage timber in the near future, while the wood still has value. In addition to this post-fire work, we are continuing to plan "green tree" sales for this year and future years. All these efforts will contribute toward offering the Annual Sale Quantity (ASQ) declared in the 2016 RMP Record of Decision of 37 million board feet (+/-40%) annually. We are planning other important projects under the RMP, such as aquatic restoration projects and fuels and fire resiliency treatments, as well as carrying on our regular recreation, permitting, and other land management work.

The purpose of the Medford's Messenger is to provide you with basic information on these proposed and ongoing activities on the Medford District. The following pages list recently completed projects and newly proposed projects, by Field Office. The publication is one of the

^{*} The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is managed under a separate RMP. The Monument's RMP remains linked to the Northwest Forest Plan.

avenues we take to increase the public's awareness of BLM issues, activities, and opportunities. Additional project information can also be found, on the BLM's national ePlanning website, https://eplanning.blm.gov, or by contacting the individual listed in the project descriptions. These individuals are familiar with their projects and can answer your questions, provide more details. and take your comments and input.

Not only do we want the public to be aware of our activities, we hope that you will provide meaningful, informative comments and input for these projects. Public and partner input into these projects helps us make informed decisions, take sound land management actions, and improve our projects. Comments that identify specific environmental and other information unique to project areas, or that provide other new information that may be relevant to the project, are the most helpful to us.

Please be aware that at the project level, we do not alter decisions previously made in our Resource Management Plans. Comments related strictly to RMP decisions and analysis generally do not provide information upon which the Medford District can act during any given project.

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 available on the BLM's National Website at http://go.usa.gov/xUTqJ, at the bottom of the page under "Frequently Requested NEPA Documents," or on the BLM's National ePlanning website at https://go.usa.gov/xUTqf.

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

Please note: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in any comments to the BLM, please be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. AUTHORITY: 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5

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 (CX) 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 CXs 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). CXs 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.

Medford District

Schedule of Proposed Actions

Recent Decisions and Actions

Title and Project Description Location		Decision Date	Contact
Integrated Invasive Plant Management for the Medford District Treatment of invasive terrestrial and emergent aquatic plants using a variety of methods, including but not limited to herbicide application, manual pulling, and mechanical treatment.		Decision Record signed February 5, 2018. A Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) for modifications to the 2018 Annual Treatment Plans (ATP) was signed on June 5, 2018, The Revised EA and the DNA are available at https:// go.usa.gov/xnBh3. A publicly accessible web map showing treatment locations is also available (link available at link above). BLM will release the 2019 ATP in winter of 2019.	Jared Nichol

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

Title and Project Description	Location	Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	Contact
Medford/Roseburg Programmatic Aquatic and Riparian Enhancement Project EA						
The BLM proposes aquatic and riparian restoration to improve the distribution and quantity of high- quality fish habitat across the landscape for all life stages of ESA-listed, Bureau Sensitive Species, and other fish species. The BLM would maintain and restore access to stream channels for all life stages of aquatic species. BLM proposes to improve habitat by placing large wood and boulders in streams; planting native vegetation, fencing, tipping trees, managing beaver habitat, and removing, replacing and modifying culverts.	Medford and Roseburg Districts	Completed (Medford)	Summer/ Fall 2018	Winter 2019	Winter 2019	Jared Nichol

Fall 2018 / Winter 2019

			Propo	osed		
Title and Project Description	Location	Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	Contact
Integrated Vegetation Management Programmatic EA						
The BLM will be proposing a range of forest treatments (e.g., commercial and non-commercial thinning/harvest, biomass removal, prescribed fire, planting, etc.) across many or all land use allocations (including LSR) focused primarily on improving landscape diversity and ecosystem health and function within the parameters of the 2016 SWO RMP.	Medford District	Winter 2019	Winter/ Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Summer/ Fall 2019	Jared Nichol
Road Right-of-way Agreements and Hauling Permits Processing of individual requests from other public agencies and private parties for access through BLM-managed lands.	Medford District	Ongoing as requests are received			Jared Nichol	
Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Safety Remediation CX Mitigate physical safety risks posed by hazardous AML features - e.g. adits, shafts - generally by installing gates, closing features with backfill or foam seal, or fencing.	Medford and Roseburg Districts	See note	Fall 2018/ Winter 2019	See note	Winter/ Spring 2019	Jared Nichol

Note for AML CX: No formal scoping or public review period is currently planned for the AML CX. The actions that will be proposed are very similar to those actions carried out under previous CX decisions for AML remediation on the Medford District. The BLM NEPA Handbook does not require public scoping or review for categorically excluded actions. However, the BLM will accept and consider any comments received prior to the decision. The decision and CX review documentation will be posted on BLM's ePlanning website. For AML features within an existing mining claim, the BLM will notify the claimants prior to remediating the specific feature.

Ashland Field Office

Schedule of Proposed Actions

Recent Decisions

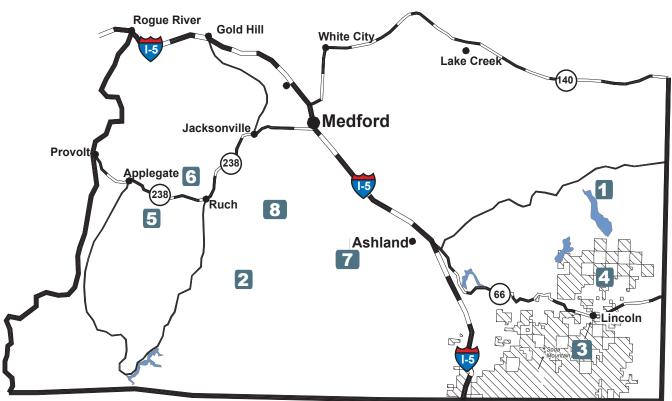
Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Decision Date	Contact	rield (
1	Griffin Half Moon Vegetation Management Project	Little Butte Creek and Jenny Creek watersheds	Decision Record signed August 15, 2018.	Kristi Mastrofini)ffice

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

				Pro	posed		
Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	Contact
2	Grazing Lease Authorization EA Proposal to authorize the Lower Big Applegate allotment grazing lease.	Middle Applegate Watershed	Fall 2018	Winter 2018/2019	Fall 2019	Summer 2019	Jason Tarrant
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	Winter 2019	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	Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Lyndsay Theurer/ Charles Schelz
5	Middle Applegate Vegetation Management Project Proposal to conduct vegetation management activities in the Middle Applegate Watershed.	Middle Applegate Watershed	Summer 2019	Winter 2019/2020	Spring 2020	Summer 2019	Kristi Mastrofini

				Pro	posed		
Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	Contact
6	Trail Closure for Shiny Geranium Management Project Proposal to close user-created trails that intersect known shiny geranium infestations.	Middle Applegate Watershed	Summer 2018	Fall 2018	Winter 2019	Spring 2019	Tye Morgan
7	Right-of-Way M-5131 Project Proposal to repair/refurbish 0.29 miles of inventoried BLM road and authorize an O&C Haul Permit	Bear Creek Watershed	Summer 2018	Winter 2019	Spring 2019	Spring 2019	Tye Morgan
8	Anderson Butte Safety Project EA BLM is considering a 2-year temporary restriction of certain target shooting sites in the Anderson Butte area due to unsafe shooting in close proximity to homes and trails. The BLM remains committed to maintain access to safe and legal target shooting on public lands, and will seek to establish the smallest possible temporary restriction to target shooting while addressing public safety.	7 miles southwest of Phoenix. Locations in T39S R02W and T38S R02W being considered	Winter 2019	Winter/ Spring 2019	Spring 2019	Spring/ Summer 2019	John Schumacher

Ashland Field Office



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	1	Griffin Half Moon Vegetation Management Project	5	Middle Applegate Vegetation Management Project
	2	Grazing Lease Authorization EA - Lower Big Applegate	6	Trail Closure for Shiny Geranium Management Project
	3	CSNM Land Exchange EA	7	ROW M-5131 Project
	4	CSNM Pine Plantation Restoration EA	8	Anderson Butte Safety Project EA

Butte Falls Field Office

Schedule of Proposed Actions

Fall 2018 / Winter 2019

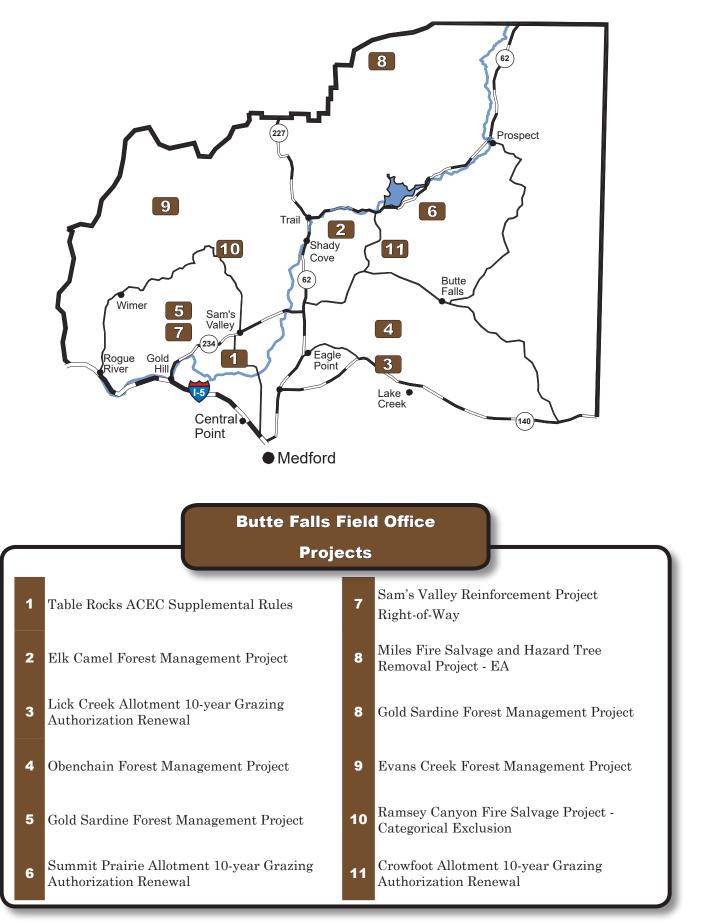
Recent Decisions

Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Decision Date	Contact
1	Table Rocks ACEC Supplemental RulesPublic 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	Shady Elk Decision signed August 17, 2017 Camel Hump Road Improvement Decision signed June 21, 2018 Long Branch Decision Record signed August 7, 2018	Stephanie Kelleher
3	Lick Creek Allotment 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal Proposal to authorize a grazing lease in the Lick Creek Allotment.	Little Butte Creek	Decision signed September 7, 2018	Jason Tarrant
4	Obenchain Forest Management Project Forest management project	Big Butte Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds	Decision signed June 28, 2018	Michelle Calvert
5	Gold Sardine Forest Management Project Forest management project	Gold Hill-Rogue River watershed	Decision signed July 18, 2018	Stephanie Kelleher

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

			Proposed				annd	
Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	Contact	Гa
6	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	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Jason Tarrant	

				Proposed				
Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	Contact	
7	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	On Hold	Stephanie Kelleher	
8	Miles Fire Salvage and Hazard Tree Removal Project - Environmental Assessment Proposal to salvage dead and dying trees from the Miles Fire Area	Elk Creek watershed	Fall 2018	Winter 2018/2019	Spring 2019	Spring 2019	Michelle Calvert	
9	Evans Creek Forest Management Project An environmental assessment will be completed for this landscape-scale forest management project.	Elk Creek watershed	Fall 2018	Winter 2018/2019	Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Stephanie Kelleher	
10	Ramsey Canyon Fire Salvage Project - Categorical Exclusion Proposal to salvage dead and dying trees from the Ramsey Canyon Fire Area	Evans Creek watershed	Fall 2018	Fall 2018	Winter 2019	Winter 2019	Stephanie Kelleher	
11	Crowfoot Allotment 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal Proposal to authorize a grazing lease in the Crowfoot Allotment.	Shady Cove-Rogue River watershed	N/A	On Hold	On Hold	On Hold	Jason Tarrant	



Grants Pass Field Office

Schedule of Proposed Actions

Fall 2018 / Winter 2019

Recent Decisions

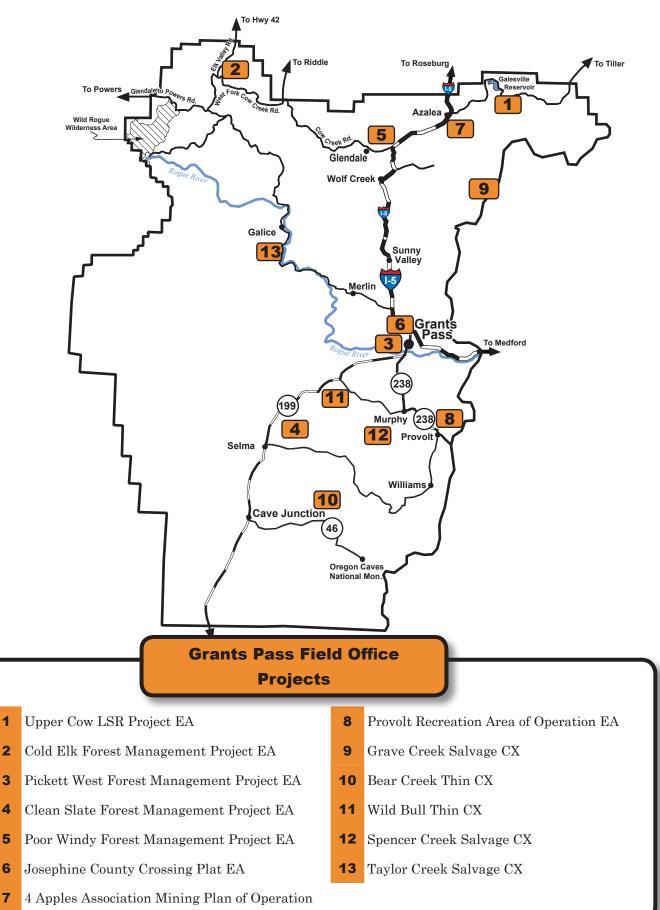
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Map Number	Title and Project Description	Location	Decision Date	Contact
1	Upper Cow LSR Project EA Proposed forest management project to improve late-successional conditions within the LSR and attain the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives in riparian reserves.	Middle Cow Creek Watershed	Second Decision Record, Beef Stew Stewardship, signed July 9, 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 Timber Sale, signed July 30, 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, signed June 28, 2018. Third Decision Record, Pickett Fuels, signed July 30, 2018.	Ferris Couture
4	Clean Slate Forest Management Project EA Landscape-scale forest management activities.	Deer Creek watershed	Decision Record signed August 15, 2018	Scott Hicks

New and Ongoing Projects Being Considered

				Propo	osed Dates		
Map Number	Project Name and Description	Location	Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	Contact
5	Poor Windy Forest Management Project EA Landscape-scale forest management activities	Middle Cow Creek, Grave Creek, Jumpoff Joe Creek, Days Creek, and Lower Cow Creek Watersheds	Completed	Winter 2018/2019	Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Ferris Couture
6	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	Completed	Completed	Spring 2019	Scott Hicks
7	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	Completed	Spring 2019	Ferris Couture
8	Provolt Recreation Area Management Plan EA Proposed recreation management on approximately 294 acres of BLM- administered lands within the Provolt Seed Orchard Special Recreation Management Area	Lower Applegate Watershed	Completed	Fall 2018	Winter 2018/2019	Spring 2019	Scott Hicks
9	Grave Creek Salvage CX 250 acres Fire Salvage forest management activities	Grave Creek Watershed	Completed	Completed	Fall 2018	Winter 2018/2019	Scott Hicks
10	Bear Creek Thin CX 70 acres Commercial Thinning forest management activities	Sucker Creek Watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Winter 2018/2019	Scott Hicks

			Proposed Dates				
Map Number	Project Name and Description	Location	Scoping	Analysis	Public Review	Decision	Contact
11	Wild Bull Thin CX 54 acres Commercial Thinning forest management activities	Lower Applegate Watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Winter 2018/2019	Scott Hicks
12	Spencer Creek Salvage CX 27 acres of Fire Salvage forest management activities	Williams Creek and Deer Creek Watersheds	Completed	Completed	Completed	Winter 2018/2019	Scott Hicks
13	Taylor Creek Salvage CX 124 acres of Fire Salvage forest management activities	Hellgate Canyon- Rogue River Watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Winter 2018/2019	Scott Hicks



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.

Bureau of Land Management Medford District Office 3040 Biddle Road Medford, OR 97504

Please remove my name from the Medford's Messenger mailing list.

Project	Field Office				
Please send me additional information on the following project(s):					

