



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Release No.: OR110-02-29

Karen Gillespie, Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (541) 618-2424 Fax: (541) 734-4586

BLM News Release



Bureau of Land Management
Medford District, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Karen Gillespie, Public Affairs Officer, (541) 618-2424

Howard Hunter, Assistant Monument Manager, (541) 618-2256

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Draft Monument Management Plan Released

BLM Requests Public Comment Through September 20, 2002

June 5, 2002, Medford, OR - The Draft Resource Management Plan (Draft Plan) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Cascade- Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) was released today. The Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is encouraging the public to review the plan and provide input on its content through September 20, 2002. An overview of the Draft Plan will be presented by the BLM at an open-house style meeting on June 15, 2002 from 2 PM to 5 PM at Southern Oregon University in Ashland. In addition, subject-matter field trips on the Draft Plan may be made available.

“We are very excited to have this draft management plan out on the street for public review and comment,” said Mary Smelcer, Acting Medford District Manager. “We see this as another important step in our continued commitment to work collaboratively with the community and in building a strong foundation for long term cooperative management of this special area.”

The Draft Plan outlines the proposed direction for the long-term management of the CSNM, including goals and objectives, proposed management, and monitoring requirements. The Draft Plan also evaluates the potential consequences of implementing each of the four alternatives. The final version of the plan will supercede current planning guidance related to this area found in the 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan.

The Draft Plan analyzes four different alternatives. Alternative A, the “No Action” Alternative, describes current Monument management and serves as a baseline for comparing the action alternatives. Alternatives B, C, and D describe different methods for achieving the plan’s overall goal, which is protection, restoration and enhancement of Monument resources. Although the methods for reaching this goal change by alternative, each alternative meets the intent of the Proclamation to protect the biological values for which the Monument was established.

Alternative B, the “hands-off” approach, promotes primarily natural ecosystem processes in the management of plant communities. Alternative C (the agency “Preferred Alternative”) incorporates active but moderate management for protection and maintenance of the Monument’s different plant communities. Alternative D promotes a more proactive management approach for protection, maintenance and restoration of Monument plant communities. Alternative D would utilize the widest array of management options and actively manage the most acres of land.

While BLM believes Alternative C is currently best suited to address the diversity of issues across the landscape, identification of the Preferred Alternative does not guarantee that this alternative will be selected. Based on the analysis of consequences and public input, various pieces of the differing alternatives may be selected to develop the Preferred Alternative in the final management plan.

The next steps in completing a resource management plan for the CSNM include publication of a Proposed Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement followed by a Record of Decision. The BLM expects the Final Environmental Impact Statement to be released in the winter of 2002. A Record of Decision is expected to be released in the summer of 2003.

Written comments regarding the Draft Plan should be sent to:

Ted Hass
CSNM Team Leader
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504
Ted_Hass@or.blm.gov

Single hard copies or CD-ROM versions of the Draft Plan are available at the Medford District BLM Office. It can also be viewed on the internet at <http://www.or.blm.gov/CSNM>. In addition, a Reader’s Guide to the Draft Plan is available at the Medford District BLM Office and on the web site listed above.