

How Does the Monument Change Things?

While the presidential proclamation establishing the monument addressed many key issues regarding protection of the monument's natural resources, it left many management issues up to the Medford District BLM. When complete, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Management Plan will further define the scope of activities that are compatible with the goals of the monument. Listed below are some of the issues addressed in the proclamation.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Although the monument boundary encompasses over 85,000 acres, the BLM only manages 62 percent of the land. Thirty-eight percent of the land within the monument is privately owned and consists of thriving communities, private residences, ranches, resorts, and timber inholdings. Regulations pertaining to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument only affect federal land and do not in any way restrict on the rights of land owners within the monument to use or sell their property in accordance with existing state and federal laws.

RECREATION

Many of the ways that people have historically enjoyed the area that is now the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument continue today. Hiking, camping, and horseback riding are welcome activities. Hunting and fishing regulations are managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and have not changed as a result of monument status. However, in the interest of minimizing erosion and protecting the area's fragile plant communities, the proclamation prohibits cross-country travel by bicycles and vehicles within the monument. The Schoheim Road, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, and other trails in the monument are also closed to all mechanized and motorized uses. Snowmobiles are only permitted on designated roads.

TIMBER AND MINING

Federal lands within the monument are closed to the commercial harvest of timber or other vegetative material, except when part of an authorized science-based ecological restoration project aimed at meeting protection and old growth enhancement objectives. Federal lands within the monument are withdrawn from mineral entry.

ROADS

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has over 40 miles of roads available for public use. Most roads will remain open for public use and enjoyment. In order to reduce erosion, minimize the threat of fire, and reduce negative impacts on wildlife and plant communities, the Schoheim Jeep Road has been closed in its entirety. The Draft Monument Management Plan will address transportation issues in detail, including road maintenance and repairs, road closures, and seasonal restrictions.

GRAZING

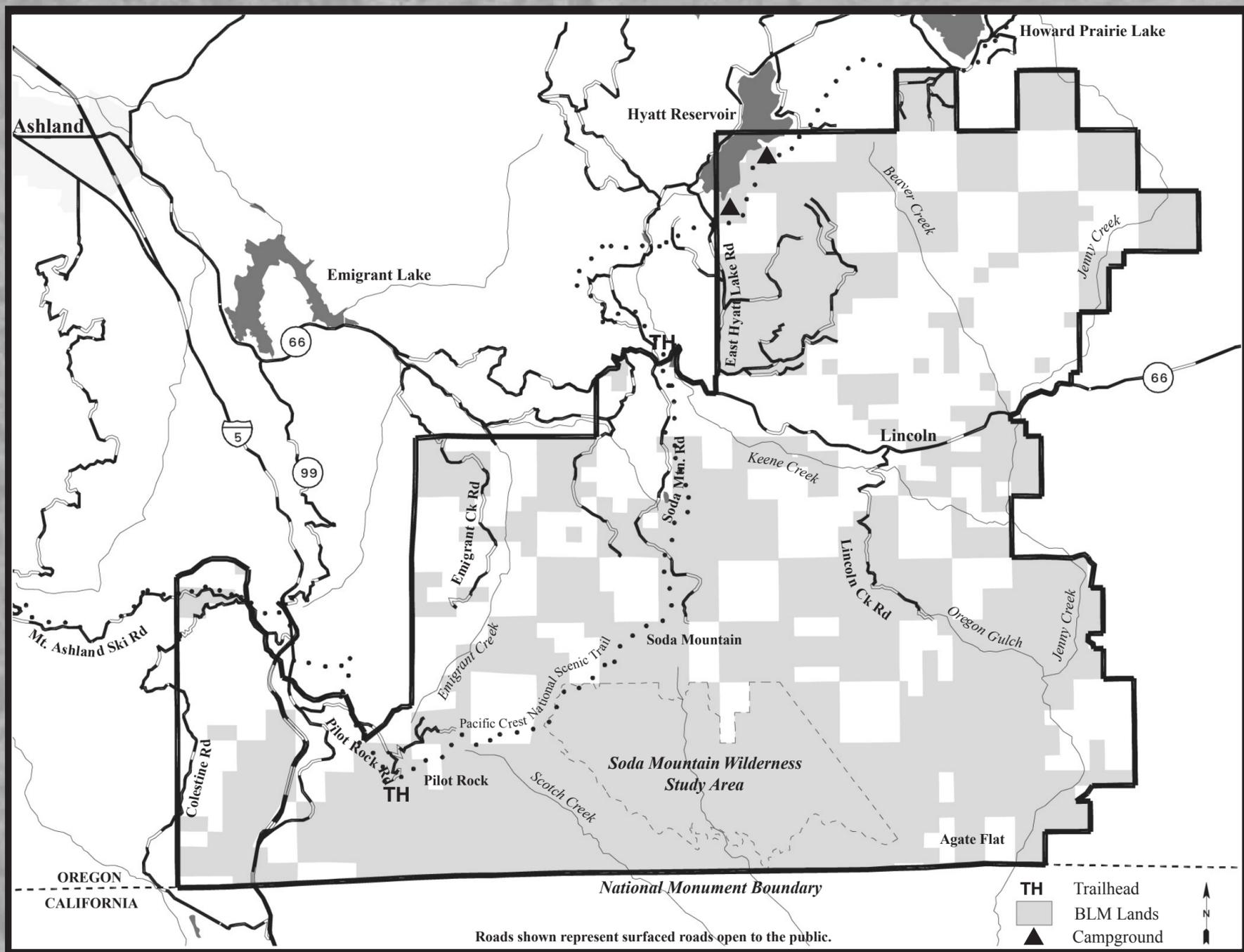
The proclamation retained all grazing allotments in the monument, but directed the BLM to study the impacts of livestock grazing on the area's natural ecosystem dynamics. The BLM has initiated a project to study the impacts of livestock on plant communities and other resources for which the monument was created. Existing authorized grazing privileges will continue under the appropriate laws and regulations. Should grazing be found incompatible with the area's native ecosystem, grazing allotments may be restricted or retired.

FIRE

Minimizing the threat of catastrophic wildfire is of paramount importance to the BLM and surrounding communities. Our policy has been, and remains, one of direct attack and full suppression of all fires in all areas of the monument including the Wilderness Study Area. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is responsible for prevention, detection and initial attack of fires on Medford BLM lands. The BLM and ODF conducted an analysis of firefighting access in the monument. All roads deemed essential for firefighting remain open for that purpose. The Draft Monument Management Plan will address the issues of fire management and prescribed fire in the monument.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Natural and cultural resources within the monument are protected and cannot be removed, defaced, or destroyed. Leaving rocks, plants, archaeological artifacts and other objects of interest undisturbed allows others a sense of discovery.



The BLM is now accepting scoping comments to help focus the Draft Monument Management Plan until August 31, 2000.

For more information or to get involved please contact our local office or visit our website at:

www.or.blm.gov/Medford/

United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504
541-618-2200

