



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504
email address: or110mb@or.blm.gov

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1792(117)
East Kerby FMP
G5753(DH:bhk)

Dear Neighbor and Interested Citizen:

JUN 2 2000

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has begun planning the East Kerby Forest Management Project on public lands in the Illinois-Kerby watershed. We are sending you this letter because you live or own property near the project area, have been involved in previous BLM projects planned for or implemented in this area, have a special interest in this watershed, or have requested to be informed about projects of this type. The enclosed map shows the planning area for this project.

The purpose and need for these projects is to implement the BLM's Medford District Resource Management Plan. An environmental analysis (EA) will be prepared to present and evaluate the BLM project proposals within the Illinois-Kerby watershed.

We are in one of the first steps in the preparation of the environmental analysis. It is a step referred to by planners as "scoping." The principal purpose of scoping is the early identification of site specific resource concerns, the identification of unique or sensitive features in the project planning area, and the identification and articulation of issues and concerns specific to the project area that should be considered during project planning.

Examples of the kind of information we would like to learn about at this point include: Are there any sites that you know are important or popular recreation sites? Do you know of any old mines or other hazardous conditions that we should attend to as a part of this project? Do you know of any sites of rare or unique plants, or areas you know to be used by rare or endangered animals? Are there any springs within the project area that you rely on for your domestic water? Are there roads that need erosion control work? Are there areas that you know are a particularly important source for special forest products? Are there areas in need of "restoration work" such as stream enhancement or fish habitat improvement? Are there road closures or road restoration within the area which should be considered? Are there areas that you know are a particularly important source for special forest products such as poles, mushrooms or medicinal herbs? Are there areas where the fire hazard is especially high? Do you know of opportunities where we might compliment fire hazard reduction work planned for lands adjacent to BLM administered land?

We do not yet have a specific project proposal for the BLM administered land in the Illinois-Kerby watershed. Our recent projects of this type have included a mix of timber harvesting, prescribed burning to reduce fire hazard, young forest stand thinning or brushing, stream/plant restoration work, various types of road work, and development of recreational opportunities. For the East Kerby project, we will most likely include similar types of proposals. In all of our projects we pay particular attention to stream and riparian protection.

Our project planning work will consider all the BLM lands in the planning area. We are doing this to provide for a more comprehensive consideration of the resource conditions and management needs.

At times our planning work will be much more efficient if we are able to cross adjacent private land for our inventory work. We would appreciate your assistance with this. We will, of course, contact the landowner for permission prior to crossing private property.

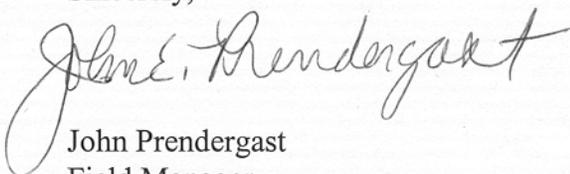
It is important to keep in mind that this project is part of the implementation of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan and the BLM's 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan. When developing this project, these plans will provide the context along with many of the objectives and constraints that we must consider. Many resource allocation decisions were made in these plans, decisions that we will not be revisiting in the present project planning and environmental analysis. Copies of these plans are available through the Josephine County library system. They can also be found at our Medford District web site (www.or.blm.gov/medford) under planning documents.

Early comments are especially helpful to us. We would greatly appreciate receiving your scoping comments by **June 23, 2000**. This is not, however, the only opportunity you will have to comment on this project. Later, when we have specific project proposals and have prepared the EA, there will be an opportunity for review and comment.

If at any time during the next few months you would like more information or would like to talk with us about this project, feel free to contact me at (541) 618-2200 or Jon Raybourn at (541) 618-2426. Please send your written comments to me at the above addresses or you can E-mail them to me at or110mb@or.blm.gov.

Individuals sometimes prefer to comment confidentially. If providing a confidential response is important to you, you may request that we withhold your name and/or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Please state this clearly at the beginning of your written comment. We will honor your request to the extent allowed by law. All comments received from organizations or officials of organizations, businesses or government agencies will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

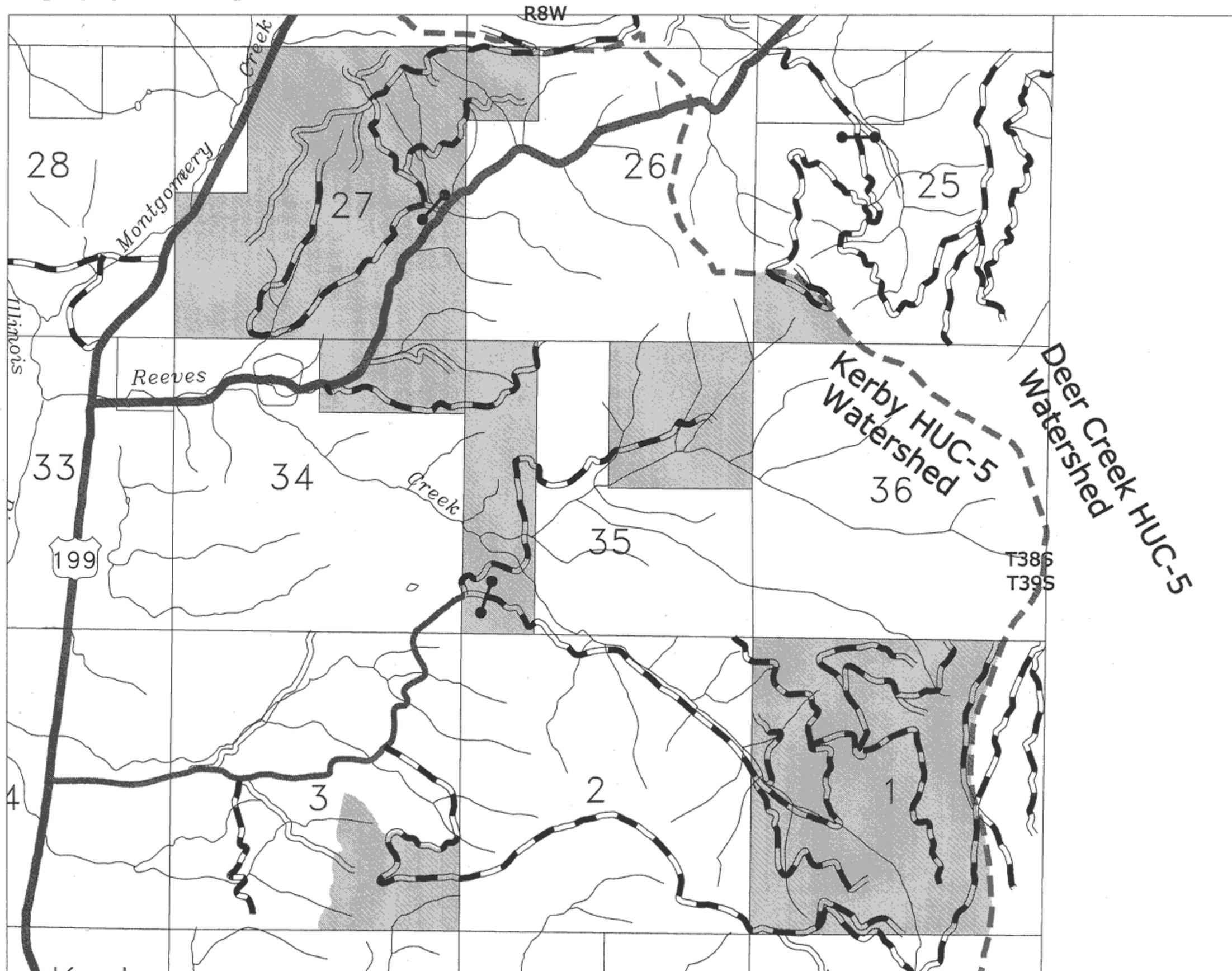
Sincerely,



John Prendergast
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area

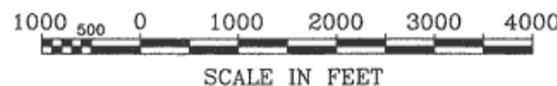
Enclosure (as stated)

EAST KERBY LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT SCOPING MAP



Legend

● Project Area



3 April, 2000