

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

for the

## **Brice Campman Road Right-of-Way Application (OR 55504)**

(EA #OR110-02-04)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT  
GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA

November 2001

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT

EA COVER SHEET

RESOURCE AREA: Grants Pass      FY & REPORT # EA Number OR-110-02-*04*

ACTION/TITLE:      Brice Campman Road Right-of-way

LOCATION:      T. 36 S., R. 7 W., section 2, lot 6 (also referenced as tax lot 1101), Willamette Meridian,  
Josephine Co., Oregon

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:      Matt Craddock  
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**Chapter 1**  
**Purpose and Need for Action and Alternatives**

**A. Introduction and Need for the Proposal**

**1. Introduction**

The purpose of this environmental assessment (EA) is to assist in the decision-making process by assessing the environmental and human affects resulting from implementing the proposed project and/or alternatives. The EA will also assist in determining if an environmental impact statement (EIS) needs to be prepared or if a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is appropriate.

This EA tiers to: (1) the Final EIS and Record of Decision dated June 1995 for the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) dated October 1994; (2) the Final Supplemental EIS on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl dated February 1994; (3) the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its Attachment A entitled the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl dated April 13, 1994; (4) Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2001).

This EA also draws from the Hellgate Recreation Management Plan for the Wild and Scenic Rogue River dated 1978.

**2. Need for the Proposal**

Mr. Brice Campman owns private lands along the Rogue River west of Grants Pass, Oregon. Mr. Campman has submitted an application to acquire a right-of-way for the construction, maintenance, and use of a road and buried phoneline across BLM lands to access his private property. Map #1 (attached) shows southwest Oregon and the approximate location of the subject properties.

The BLM lands at the location of the requested road and phone line ROW are described as follows:

T. 36 S., R. 7 W., section 2,  
lot 6 (referenced as Josephine Co. Assessor tax lot 1101),  
Willamette Meridian, Josephine Co., Oregon

**3. Background**

Mr. Campman purchased the above mentioned private lands from Mr. John Brownell in 1998.

This parcel of private land is identified on Map #2 (attached) as tax lot 1300.

Mr. Brownell formerly owned both tax lot 1300 (sold in 1998 to Mr. Campman) and tax lot 1101, now owned by the United States. Mr. Brownell deeded tax lot 1101 to the Bureau of Land Management in 1972 to enhance the BLM management of the Wild and Scenic Rogue River as authorized by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. Tax lot 1101 totals seventeen (17) acres.

As seen on Map #2, there currently exists a paved road located within the western edge of tax lot 1101 that accesses tax lot 1300. Mr. Brownell used this road for several years as his only physical access to tax lot 1300 where his primary residence was located. Mr. Campman continues to utilize this road for access to his residence and property purchased from Mr. Brownell.

Concurrent with the BLM purchase of tax lot 1101 from Mr. Brownell, the BLM granted a ROW for the access road described above to Mr. Brownell to allow his continued legal and physical access to his residence and property in tax lot 1300. The ROW issued was a non-transferable right-of-way issued in 1981.

Following Mr. Campman's purchase of tax lot 1300 from Mr. Brownell, Mr. Campman expressed his desire to the BLM to acquire an assignment of the ROW grant originally issued to Mr. Brownell for the use of the existing driveway/access located along the west boundary of tax lot 1101. Mr. Campman was told by the BLM in January, 1999 that the ROW issued to Mr. Brownell in 1981 was non-transferable and could not be assigned. Mr. Campman was advised to apply for a new ROW.

Mr. Campman filed a new ROW application in the spring, 1999. Instead of filing a new right-of-way authorization for the use of the existing access road, Mr. Campman instead requested to be allowed to construct, use, and maintain a new access road east of the existing access road in tax lot 1101 (see Map #2). In addition Mr. Campman desires to bury an additional phoneline to his private residence within the new ROW. Mr. Campman desires to remove and rehabilitate the existing road once his proposed new road is constructed.

Mr. Campman has stated that he needs and desires physical and legal access to his property in tax lot 1300. Mr. Campman also desires an additional phoneline to his property for utilizing the internet. Mr. Campman stated that the phone company will require additional phonelines to his property to be buried.

Mr. Campman desires to construct the new road to allow more privacy to his neighbors immediately adjacent to the existing access route along the west edge of tax lot 1101. In addition the new road would allow Mr. Campman privacy when accessing his property in tax lot 1300.

## **B. Scoping Issues Relevant to the Proposal**

Scoping letters were sent in July 2001 to several adjacent private landowners near the project area. One comment was received from a landowner residing in tax lot 1100, immediately east of

the proposed road location. That landowner was opposed to the proposed new road stating that an acceptable paved access to Mr. Campman's property already exists and that "keeping the access where it is would be in line with the original purpose of protecting lands in the Wild and Scenic River area".

An interdisciplinary BLM planning team was created to review the proposed action. Visits to the site by members of this team and resources specialists surveying for botanical, wildlife, and cultural values was done on more than one occasion. Mr. Campman accompanied team members on some of the visits.

The Medford District Resource Management Plan completed in June, 1995 lists management direction for the lands and realty program within all land use allocations. The Record of Decision for the RMP discusses 'Rights-of-Way' (p. 82) and states that "With the exception of buried lines in rights-of-ways of existing roads, **avoid** locating rights-of-way in the following areas:

- Scenic and recreational rivers (those found suitable for designation and those already designated)."

The 1978 Rogue River Activity Plan for the Hellgate Recreation Section of the river includes guidance for all activities within the recreation section of the Rogue River. A review of the plan shows that the proposed action is consistent with the management activities outlined in the plan. The 1978 Activity Plan is being rewritten at this time and the proposed action remains to be consistent with the draft guidelines of the new plan.

## **C. Proposed Action and/or Alternatives**

### **1. Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)**

For the purpose of this EA and analysis, the proposed action is to grant the requested right-of-way based upon the elements in the applicant's application.

Brice Campman has applied to the BLM for a right-of-way grant to allow him to construct a new road and bury a phoneline across BLM administered lands in tax lot 1101 to access his private property in tax lot 1300 (Map #2). Mr. Campman currently uses an existing road across tax lot 1101. He proposes to vacate, remove, and rehabilitate the existing roadway and to construct, maintain, and use the new road as his access to tax lot 1300.

Mr. Campman proposes to begin construction of the new road on the southern edge of tax lot 1101 along Griffin Road. At the junction of the proposed new road with Griffin Road a culvert and fill provides access over the existing ditch line of Griffin Road into tax lot 1101 (see attached photograph). The new route follows a portion of an old existing access route through tax lot 1101. The new road would be located where indicated on Map #2 and would be approximately 1400 feet in length with a total ROW width of fifteen feet. This would allow for the concrete/asphalt running surface, drainage structures, and shoulder rocking. The phoneline would

be buried within the ROW at a depth of 36 inches.

**2. Alternative 2: Continue to Utilize the Existing Access Route**

Alternative 2 is to grant a right-of-way permit to Mr. Campman to continue to utilize the existing driveway on the west edge of tax lot 1101 to access his private property in tax lot 1300. In addition, authorization would be given for Mr. Campman to bury the additional phone line adjacent to, or within, the existing driveway. The phoneline would be buried at a depth of 36 inches.

**3. Alternative 3: No Action Alternative**

The selection of the No Action Alternative would mean that both Alternative One (proposed action) and Alternative Two would be denied. Therefore, no right-of-way grant would be issued by the BLM to allow Mr. Campman to construct the road across the above described BLM lands as seen on Map #2, and would not allow Mr. Campman to place a buried phoneline within the ROW. In addition Mr. Campman would not be allowed to bury an additional phoneline within the existing roadway, and Mr. Campman would not be issued a ROW grant to allow his legal use of the existing driveway.

**4. Project Design Features for All Action Alternatives**

Project design features (PDFs) are included for the purpose of reducing anticipated adverse environmental impacts identified in the scoping process and which might stem from the implementation of the proposed action/preferred alternative, or other alternatives. This section outlines these PDFs.

a. A prework meeting between the BLM's contract administrator and the applicant would be conducted at the location of the proposed road prior to the commencement of all construction activities.

b. The final specifications of the proposed road will be approved by the BLM prior to the prework meeting. This would include locating drainage features and ensuring adequate surfacing.

c. No timber would be cut or removed by Mr. Campman.

d. Contingency plans in case of emergency spills or leaks by hazardous materials must be in place prior to the commencement of any construction activities.

f. Mr. Campman would be required to maintain the drainage and road surface throughout the term of the right-of-way.

g. Mr. Campman would be required to obtain all State, local, and Federal permits, licenses, and other permission prior to the commencement of construction activities. This includes permits required during fire season.

h. During road construction and/or the burial of the phoneline a Cultural Resource Technician designated by the BLM will be present on site. If cultural resources are found construction activities will be suspended pending evaluation by the Medford District Archeologist and/or the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer.

i. During construction no impacts will be allowed at the location of the wet meadow/riparian reserve area near the proposed road location.

j. During construction, and during maintenance, the ROW holder will not be allowed to cut and remove large oaks (*Quercus* species).

## **Chapter 2 Environmental Consequences**

### **A. Introduction**

Only substantive site-specific environmental changes that would result from implementing the proposed action or alternatives are discussed in this chapter. If an ecological component is not discussed, it should be assumed that the resource specialists have considered affects to that component and found the proposed action or alternatives would have minimal or no affects. Similarly, unless addressed specifically, the following were found not to be affected by the proposed action or alternatives: air quality; areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC); cultural or historical resources; Native American religious sites; prime or unique farmlands; floodplains; endangered, threatened or sensitive plant, animal or fish species; water quality; wetlands/riparian zones; wild and scenic rivers; and wilderness areas. In addition, hazardous waste or materials are not directly involved in the proposed action or alternatives.

General or "typical" affects from projects similar in nature to the proposed action or alternatives are also described in the EISs and plans this EA is tiered to.

### **B. Affected Environment**

The proposed road and buried phoneline would cross BLM lands within the recreation section of the Rogue River. The BLM parcel was purchased to enhance the BLM management of the public lands within the river corridor. The BLM lands have a status of 'acquired lands'.

The BLM lands at the location of the proposed activities are not within the available commercial timber base since they are within the recreation section of the Rogue River. The BLM lands at the location of the proposed activities are characterized as a Douglas-fir and sugar pine site with associated hardwoods.

There are gravelly silt loam soils at the location of the proposed road and buried phoneline.

There is a riparian reserve and wet meadow in the vicinity of the proposed road and phoneline location. The proposed road and phoneline will be located outside those areas and no cutting or other degradation to the riparian vegetation or streamside habitat would occur.

Wildlife surveys were completed in the spring and fall 1999. The proposed ROW and surrounding area was systematically surveyed according to requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan and Endangered Species Act. Below is a summary of the findings following surveys:

- The northern spotted owl is currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (1973). There are no documented northern spotted owl sites within 1.3 miles of the proposed project area. It was determined that the stand characteristics only meet roosting/ foraging criteria, not nesting.

- The bald eagle is currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (1973). This parcel is within the home range of two known bald eagle nesting pairs. No nesting habitat would be removed by the proposed ROW action. It is likely that bald eagles would utilize this stand for perching and perhaps foraging.
- The red tree vole is currently as a Survey & Manage Survey Strategy 2 species under the Northwest Forest Plan (1994). It was determined during field visits that no red tree vole habitat would be impacted by this proposed project.
- There are three mollusc species in the Grants Pass Resource Area currently identified as a Survey & Manage Survey Strategy 1 & 2 species under the Northwest Forest Plan (1994). No Survey & Manage mollusks were found.
- This parcel of mixed conifer/oak woodland provides quality nesting habitat for raptors. Accipiters (Cooper's hawk and sharp-shinned hawk) are raptors commonly found nesting in riparian woodlands. Both species are commonly seen foraging in the proposed project area. Red-shouldered hawks (a raptor that has recently expanded its range into Oregon) has been observed utilizing this stand for foraging and perching. This stand also meets the nesting requirements for the species.

This parcel of land functions as critical deer winter range for the migrant deer herds found along the Rogue River and surrounding hillsides. The high canopy closure provides necessary thermal cover from the elements and protection from disturbance and predators. The proximity to open areas (fields, meadows and lawns, etc.) provides the necessary forage, allowing the deer to forage within range of their protective cover.

This parcel of contiguous mixed conifer/oak woodland is critical to the persistence on nesting neotropical migrant songbirds along the banks of the Rogue River. The protection of these contiguous blocks is of great importance to retaining the current songbird diversity in the area.

Botanical surveys for vascular and non-vascular plants was completed. No threatened or endangered species, or plants listed on the BLM sensitive species lists were found.

Scotch Broom, a noxious weed species, is prevalent in the area.

The proposed road and phoneline locations are not visible from the Rogue River.

No cultural or archeological sites needing protection were identified during field surveys.

## **C. Site Specific and Cumulative Beneficial or Adverse Affects of the Alternatives**

### **1. Alternative 1: Proposed Action**

**a. Beneficial Impacts**

Granting the ROW would create a more private access to Mr. Campman's private property in tax lot 1300. A beneficial impact to the neighbors of the existing road along the western edge of tax lot 1101 would occur in the long run due to the elimination of traffic at the existing road location. Decommissioning of the existing road would be a beneficial impact, however, that benefit may be offset by the construction of a new road of approximately the same width, length, and construction standards.

Mr. Campman would have an additional phone access line.

**b. Potential Adverse Impacts and Mitigating Measures**

An adverse impact would continue to occur with access into the BLM lands at tax lot 1101. Potential impacts include illegal dumping, illegal firewood cutting, wildlife disturbance and unauthorized occupancy. In addition, the possibility of man caused fire is present. Since the proposed action would result in a road with no neighbors immediately adjacent to it the opportunities for these impacts may be at a higher level.

The new road construction would break up the continuity of potential roosting and foraging habitat of the northern spotted owl. In addition the new road would fragment an intact piece of native woodland in an area already quite fragmented.

Dissecting the stand with a new driveway may inhibit the eagles from utilizing it in the future due to increased exposure to traffic and human disturbance. In addition the construction of the new road through the stand would diminish the chances of forest accipiters and red-shouldered hawks from utilizing it for a nest site. All of these raptor species are intolerant of any human disturbance.

By building a new access road through this parcel, a contiguous block of critical deer winter range and wildlife habitat would be degraded. Further fragmentation of the public owned land along the river corridor may decrease the overall wildlife diversity, wildlife productivity, and increase the potential for predation on wildlife.

Ground disturbance caused by implementation of the proposed action could promote the expansion of noxious weed species, in particular scotch broom. This could occur at the location of the new construction and the removal and rehabilitation of the existing road.

An adverse impact would occur if the proposed road is constructed by effectively removing 0.50 acres of land out of the timber base. However, that land base would be returned to productivity once the existing roadway is rehabilitated. Therefore, there would be no net loss of land base in the long run. **TIMBER BASE IS NOT IN THE RIVER CORRIDOR ????**

**2. Alternative 2: Utilize the Existing Access Route**

**a. Beneficial Impacts**

Mr. Campman would be issued a ROW authorization for his continued access to his residence located in tax lot 1300. In addition, Mr. Campman would be allowed to locate a buried phoneline within the existing road ROW.

By implementing this alternative no new surface disturbance would occur at the location of the BLM lands in tax lot 1101.

The neighbors adjacent to the BLM lands next to the existing road would continue to provide eyes and ears to deter illegal and unauthorized activities on the adjacent BLM lands.

**b. Potential Adverse Impacts and Mitigating Measures**

There is currently a potential adverse impact occurring to the neighbors adjacent to the existing road in the western portion of tax lot 1101. That impact may be in the form of noise whenever vehicular traffic occurs on the existing roadway. This would be a continuation of a situation that has taken place for several years.

A short term impact would occur during the construction phase of the buried phoneline.

**3. No Action Alternative**

There would be no change to the current environmental conditions. However, Mr. Campman would not be allowed to bury and use the additional phoneline. In addition, Mr. Campman would not receive a legal authorization to continue to use the existing access road to his private property in tax lot 1300.

## **Chapter 3**

### **Agencies and Persons Consulted**

#### **A. Public Involvement**

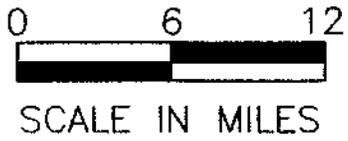
Scoping for the project was done within both the core and interdisciplinary teams. Comments were solicited from adjacent landowners in July 2001.

During review of this EA, and following notification of the availability of the EA in the Grants Pass Courier, a public comment period fifteen days (15) days in length will follow. The EA will also be posted on the Medford District web page.

#### **B. Availability of Document and Comment Procedures**

Copies of the EA document will be available for public review in the BLM Medford District Office. Comments must be sent to the Grants Pass Field Manager, Medford District BLM, for review. When the comments are evaluated and the environmental assessment is completed Grants Pass Field Manager will make a decision to select one of the alternatives, or a combination of them.

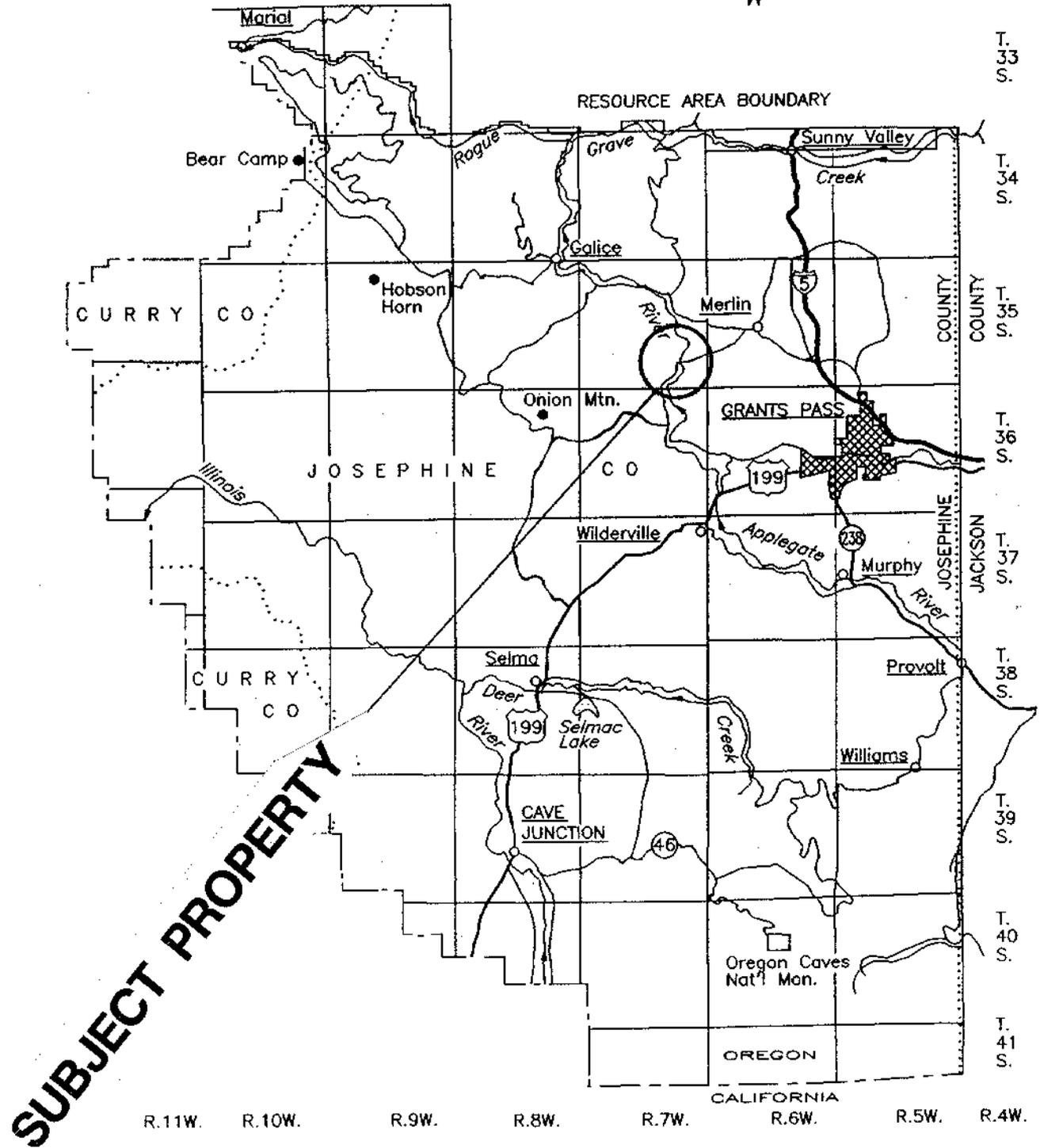
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 MEDFORD DISTRICT  
 GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA  
 VICINITY MAP



MAP #1



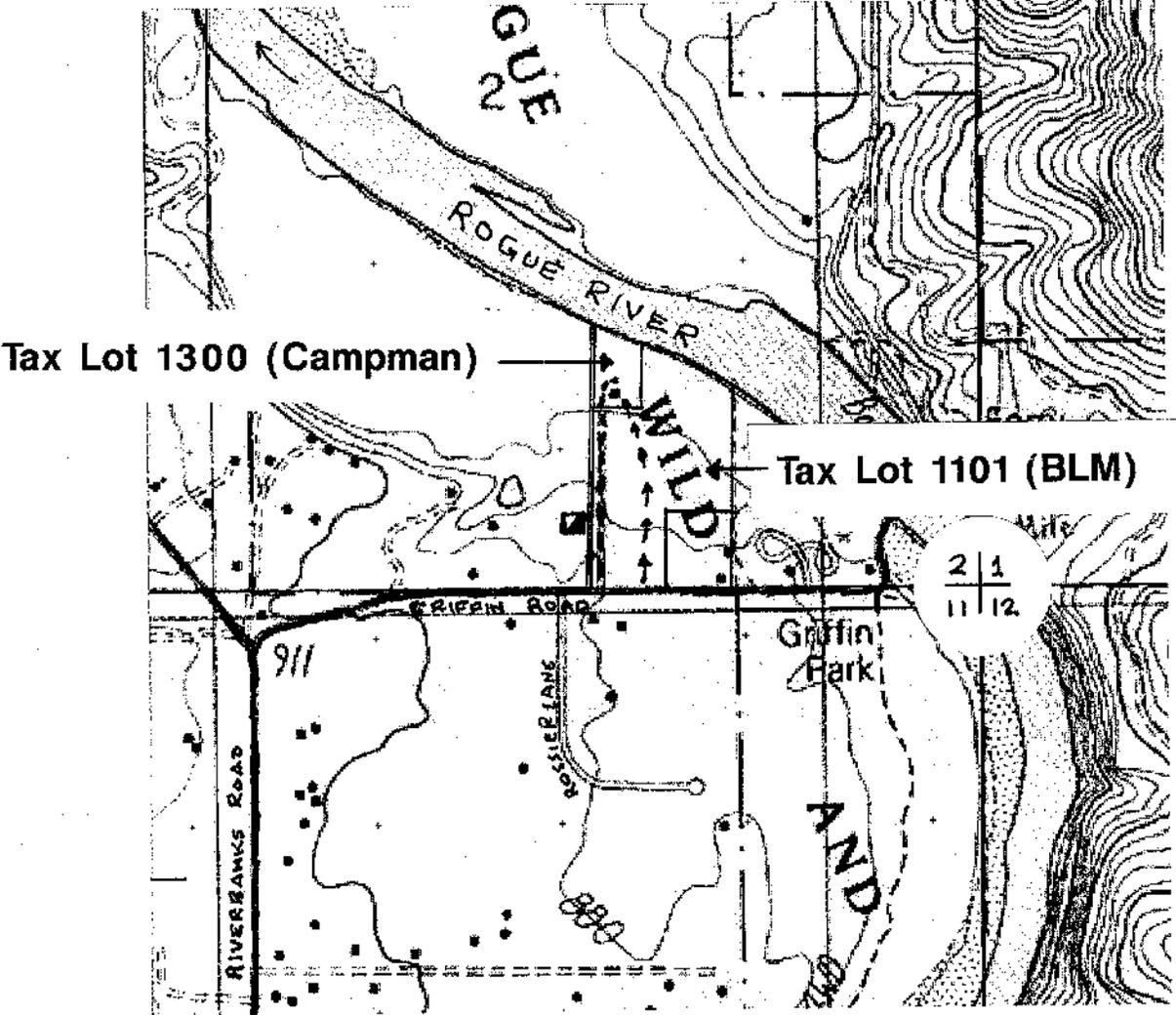
ALWAYS  
 THINK  
 SAFETY



# MAP #2

## Brice Campman Right-of-Way Application (OR 55504)

Location: T. 36 S., R. 7 W. section 2, lot 6 (tax lot 1101), W.M., Josephine Co., Oregon



### LEGEND

-  Existing Access/Driveway
-  Proposed New Access/Driveway
-  Section Corner of sections 1/2/11/12
-  Residence Adjacent to Existing Access/Driveway

SCALE: 1" = 1000 feet