



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(OR-117)

MAR 18 2004

Dear Neighbor and Interested Citizen:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has begun planning a landscape management project located within the south half of the Deer Creek watershed. Enclosed is a map outlining the project area that is being called the South Deer Landscape Management Project. The BLM is sending letters to individuals who live or own property near the project area, have been involved in our planning process for other projects, or have requested to be kept informed about projects such as South Deer. We are early in the planning process and invite you to provide information about resource issues specific to South Deer for consideration or incorporation into the plan.

The Medford District 1995 Resource Management Plan and the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan Management set forth management objectives and guidelines that will guide project development. Other goals and objectives can be found in the National Fire Plan and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. We will be looking closely at the complete spectrum of issues and concerns within the planning area including social, forest health, streams and riparian reserves, and wildlife. Another key issue identified is the risk of high intensity wildfire within the wildland/urban interface that has the potential to damage public and private property, fragment wildlife habitat, degrade riparian areas, and threaten landowner safety. We will be looking at creative ways to manage and balance the multitude of resources, resource issues, and management goals as outlined in our planning documents.

Our planning strategy for this project is to prepare a sub-watershed scale plan that examines ways to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, reduce fuel hazard, improve forest health, and contribute to local economies. While we do not as yet have specific project proposals, treatments would likely include a mix of tree harvest/removal, prescribed burning, young stand development treatments such as thinning or brushing, road renovation, culvert replacement, mechanical fuels treatments, and riparian/stream enhancements. These are just a sample of the tools we can employ to achieve project objectives.

We will be hosting a meeting to scope the planning and analysis issues and invite you to join us:

Selma Community Center
April 7th 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

This meeting will provide opportunities for informal discussions with the BLM resource

specialists who will be preparing the plans and treatment prescriptions. You may also leave written comments with us at that time or comments may be sent to me at the address on the letterhead. A questionnaire designed to focus your input to specifics that are the most useful to the planning team will be posted on the Grants Pass Resource Area link at: <http://www.or.blm.gov/medford/> following the meeting.

Early comments are especially helpful to us. This is not the only opportunity to comment on this project. Later, when we have completed the broad plan and an environmental assessment of the proposal, there will be an opportunity for review and comment.

If you would like to comment but would prefer to comment confidentially, 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. Such requests will be honored 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.

We appreciate your interest in the management of your public lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abbie Jossie", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

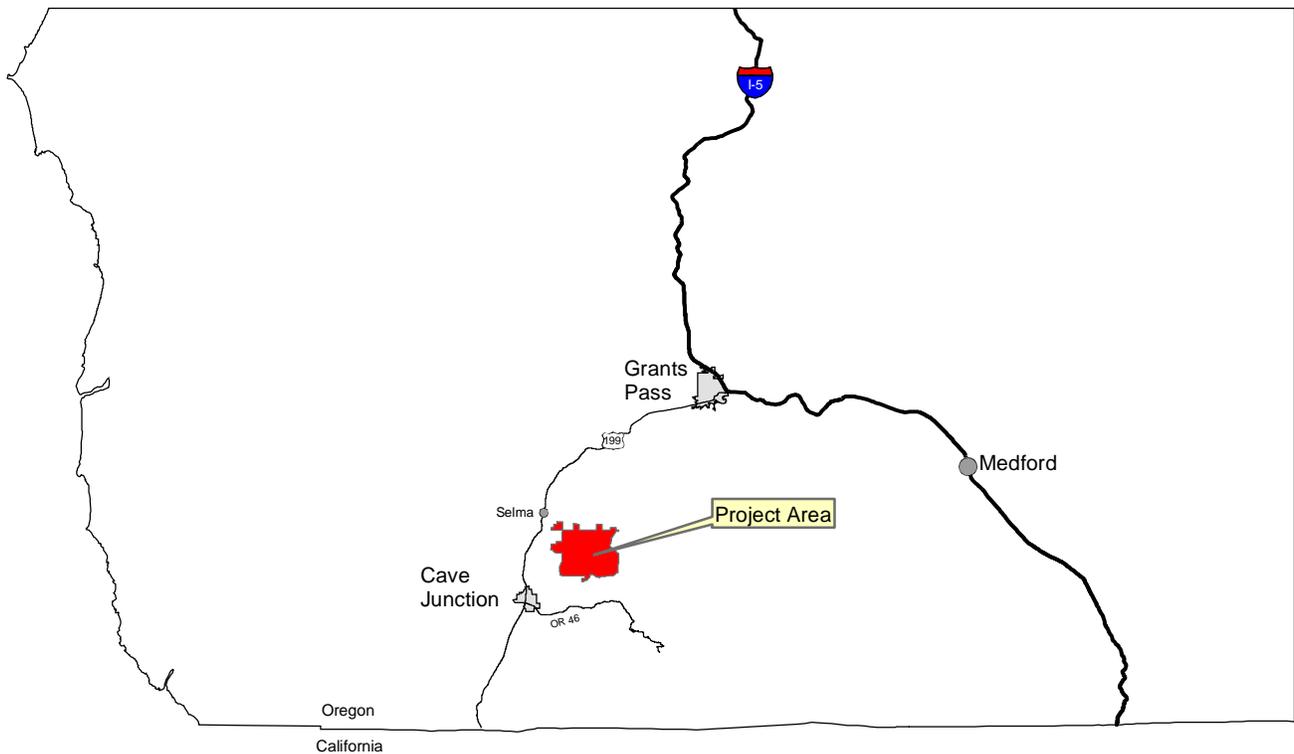
Abbie Jossie
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area

1 Attachment

1 - Project Location Map (2 pp)

South Deer Landscape Management Project

Map 1 - General Location



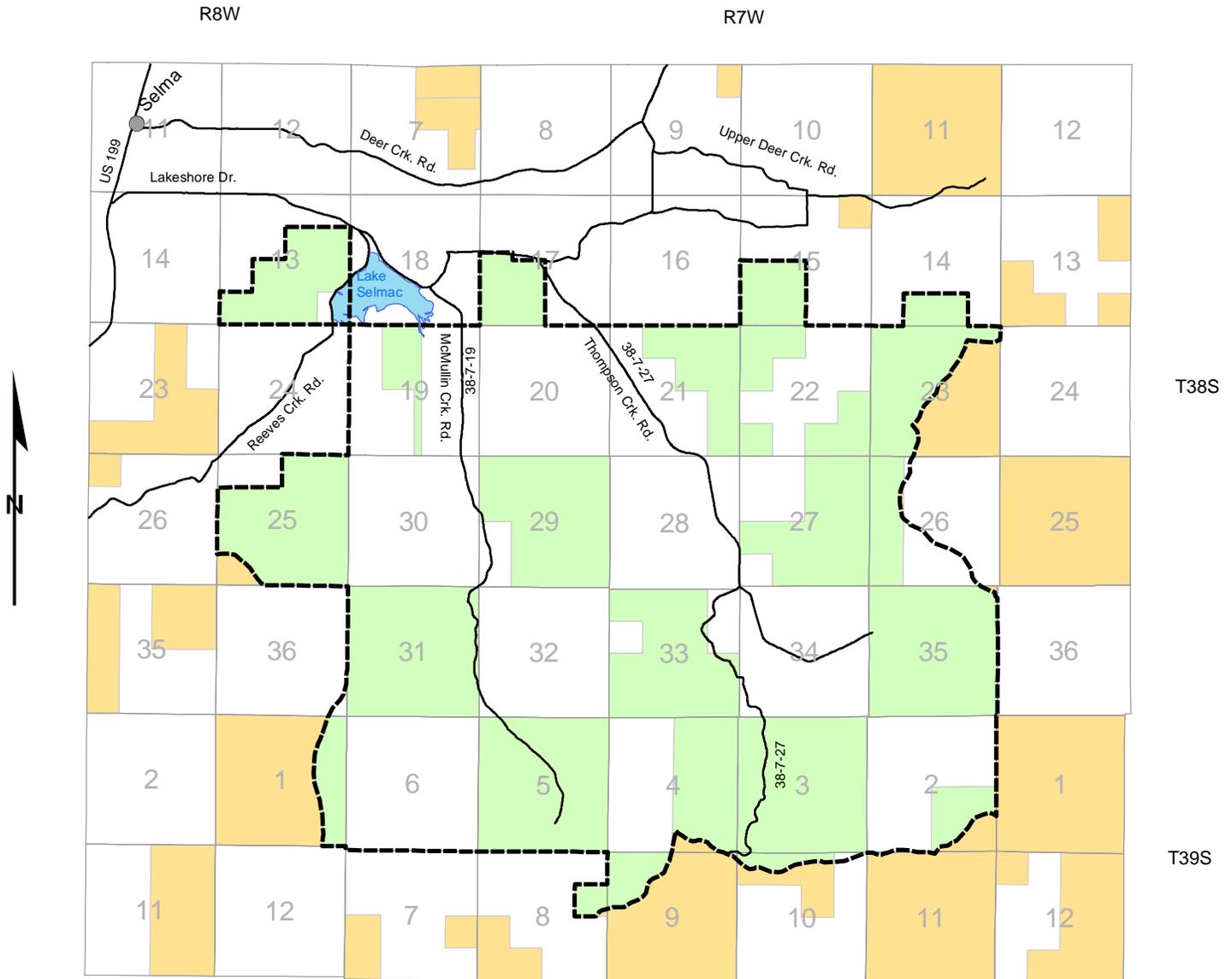
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John McGlothlin

February, 2004

South Deer Landscape Management Project

Map 2 - Project Location



Legend

- BLM Land In The Project Area
- BLM Land Outside The Project Area
- Project Boundary

Scale = 1:80000



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