



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 (116)
Bobar Landscape Project EA
A6985(ER:jl)

Dear Interested Citizen:

The *Environmental Assessment* (EA) for the Bobar Landscape Project is being advertised in the Medford Mail Tribune for a 60-day public review period beginning December 20, 2002. The Ashland Resource Area of the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to implement a landscape level treatment project over the next several years. The project is planned for BLM lands in the lower portion of Little Applegate River and the Applegate River-McKee Watersheds. The project focuses on reducing wild fire hazard, promoting healthy forest ecosystems and helping to provide some of the jobs and wood products our community needs. The details of the project proposal and an analysis of the effects of the project are contained in the enclosed EA.

The primary purpose of the review is to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the BLM's determination that there are no significant impacts associated with the proposed action which are beyond those expected and described in the Medford District RMP/EIS or the Northwest Forest Plan EIS and Supplemental EIS to which this EA is tiered, and therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary.

There has been extensive public outreach on this project over the last two years. We have held numerous public meetings and field trips. I have appreciated the comments we have received during the scoping phase of the project. It is clear there are a wide variety of opinions on how best to manage our forest resources in order to improve and restore forest health and reduce fire hazard. The development of the project was influenced directly by comments and concerns that we heard from interested citizens. We now have a detailed project proposal to share with you for review and comment.

During the review period, we welcome your comments on the content of the EA. As we make our decisions regarding the project, we will consider all pertinent site specific comments. Comments that clearly articulate site specific issues or concerns are most useful to us. The comments received, including names and addresses, will be available for public review. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Further information on this proposed project is available at the Medford District Office, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504 or by calling Edward Reilly in the Ashland Planning Department at (541) 618-2384.

The EA and maps are posted on the Medford District web site www.or.blm.gov/medford under Planning Documents/Environmental Assessments.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Drehobl
Field Manager
Ashland Resource Area