



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Salem District Office  
1717 Fabry Road S.E.  
Salem, Oregon 97306

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1790 (084.0)

May 19, 2003

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management, Cascades Resource Area, is proposing a project to restore meadow habitat that has been lost to conifer tree encroachment. While the Cascades Range of Oregon is known for dense conifer forests that blanket the landscape, open meadows have been part of the ecosystem for thousands of years. However, such meadows appear to be shrinking in size due to changes in fire patterns, past grazing practices, and other factors. These changes have allowed conifer trees to establish and grow where they had long been naturally excluded. Over recent decades, encroaching conifers have reduced meadow size and diminished habitat for wildlife that favors grasses and shrubs that grow there. If conifers continue establishing along the edges of the meadows, native grasses, shrubs, and forbs will be displaced. To provide landscape level diversity, it is important to maintain the range of habitat types historically found on federally-managed land in the Cascades Range.

The proposed project may include cutting small conifer trees, disposing of cut trees by piling and burning or lopping slash, girdling larger conifer trees to make snags for wildlife use, and prescribed burning to restore meadow habitat. Three sites in the Molalla River Watershed have been identified for meadow restoration. Two of these are in the Lost Creek subwatershed basin (about twenty-five miles southeast of Molalla) and a third is located in Table Rock Wilderness (about twenty miles southeast of Molalla); see Table 1. Project maps and aerial photos may be found online at: [http://www.or.blm.gov/salem/html/planning/ea\\_tables/ea\\_tables.htm](http://www.or.blm.gov/salem/html/planning/ea_tables/ea_tables.htm) (refer to EA No. OR080-03-14). If you do not have internet access, and wish to view this information, please feel free to request a mailing from the contacts listed below.

**Table 1.** Proposed project site locations

<b>Site</b>	<b>Location</b>
Lost Creek meadows	Township 7 S, Range 5 E, Section 4
Baty Butte trail meadows	Township 7 S, Range 5 E, Section 4, 9
Rooster Rock meadow	Township 7 S, Range 4 E, Section 21

The BLM is currently identifying issues to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment targeted for completion in July 2003. Information from you will help guide development of this proposal. The project will then be assessed for environmental effects by a team of resource specialists, who will consider known natural and human resources along with public comments.

We appreciate your thoughts on the proposed project and request that your comments reach this office by **June 17, 2003**. Please identify any resource information or issues you feel are important and should be considered during the planning process regarding this project and project area. Early input will ensure consideration of your concerns throughout the planning process.

Please contact Wesley Wong, 503-589-6844 or send e-mail to [salem\\_mail@blm.gov](mailto:salem_mail@blm.gov), attn: Wesley Wong. Written comments may be sent to Brad Keller, Cascades Resource Area Acting Field Manager, Salem District Bureau of Land Management, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Keller', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad Keller  
Acting Field Manager  
Cascades Resource Area