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)

October 7, 2004

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is considering a forest thinning project in the Molalla Watershed approximately 10 miles southeast of the City of Molalla in Clackamas County, Oregon (See Enclosed Map). The purpose of this project is to reduce the density of trees on approximately 1,260 acres of BLM-administered lands. Tree densities are very high in the proposed thinning units, which range from 30 to 80 years in age. Most of the trees removed would be smaller and less healthy, leaving a forested setting with larger more dominant trees. Other potential activities may include road construction or the renovation of existing roads that access thinning areas, and the decommissioning or blocking of roads after thinning. The proposed thinning units are located within Township 6 South, Range 3 East, Sections 7, 18, 19, 30, 31 and 32 and Township 7 South, Range 3 East, Sections 5 and 6, Willamette Meridian.

You have been identified as someone who might have specific knowledge or interest in this area. The purpose of this letter is to give you an opportunity to share any information or concerns you may have about the project. The input you provide will help a BLM interdisciplinary team of natural resource specialists to develop design features for the project and to assess the potential environmental effects.

The enclosed map shows the potential thinning units and other features that may be of interest, such as the Molalla Shared-Use Trail System. Also enclosed are a Question and Answer Information Sheet and a Project Comment Form. I would appreciate your written comments by November 17th, 2004. **We have also tentatively scheduled an open house meeting in Molalla on Tuesday, December 7th, 2004 for those who would like to learn more about this project and the proposed action being developed.** More information on the meeting will be sent out when the details are finalized. If you do not have comments, but would like to be added to our mailing list for this project, please return the Project Comment Form with your name and address.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Salem District Office during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of environmental analysis documents or related correspondence. Individual respondents

may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street 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.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Steve Dowlan at (503) 315-5909 or by email to Steve_Dowlan@blm.gov. Written comments may be sent to Rudy Hefter, Acting Cascades Field Manager, BLM – Salem District, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon 97306.

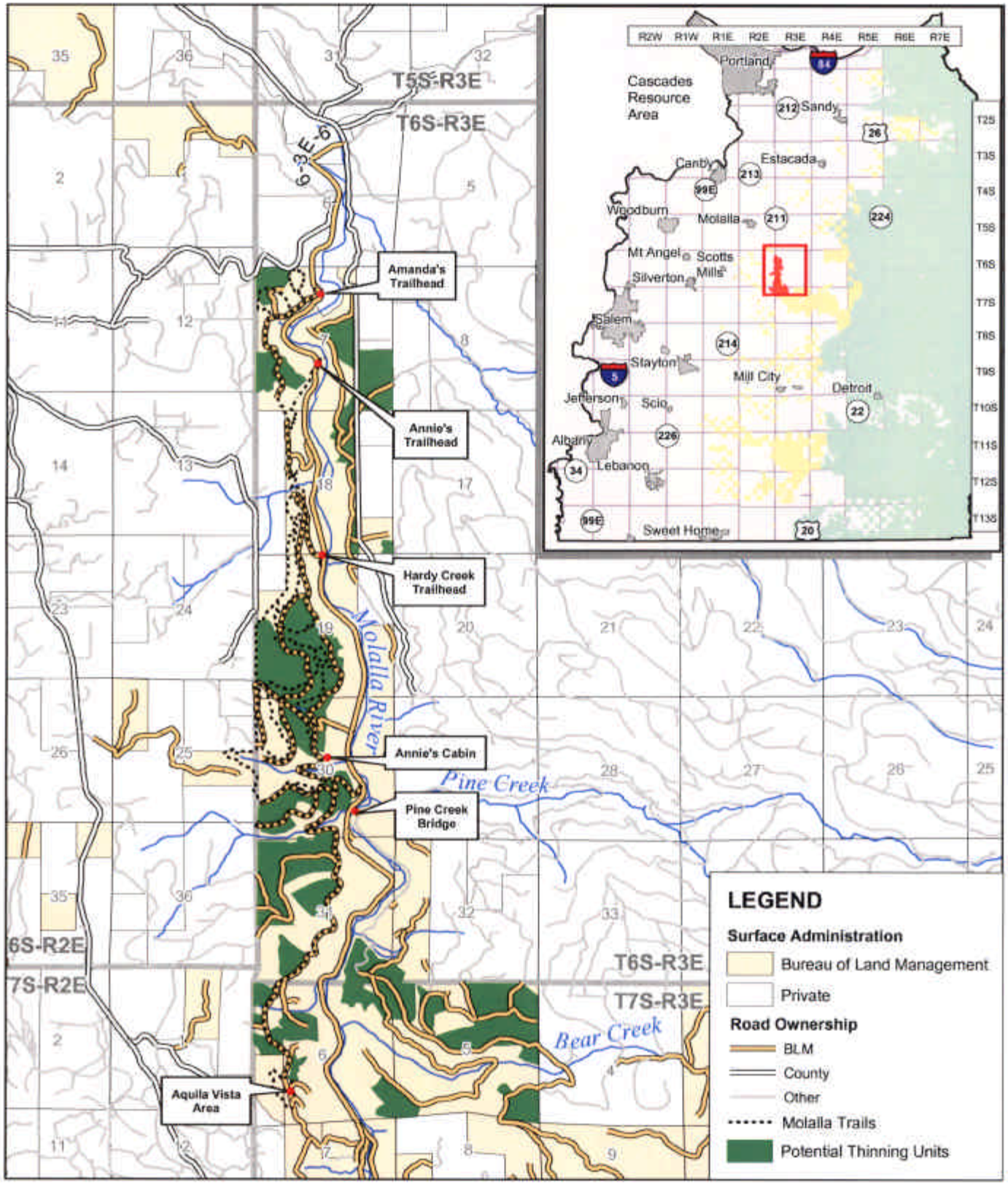
Sincerely,

Rudy Hefter
Acting Cascades Field Manager

Enclosures:

1 – Location and Project Map
1 – Question and Answer Information Sheet
1 – Project Comment Form

Annie's Cabin Thinning Location and Project Map



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Cacades Resource Area
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Salem, Oregon 97306

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Prepared by: Laura Dowlan
Date: October 7th, 2004

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