



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Grants Pass Field Office
2164 NE Spalding Avenue
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford

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DOI-BLM-ORWA-M070-2015-0009-EA

Dear Interested Party,

The Grants Pass Field Office is releasing the Upper Cow Late Successional Reserve Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a 30-day public comment period, beginning on February 9, 2016. The EA and the Draft FONSI document the project within policies set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Upper Cow Late Successional Reserve (LSR) Project is designed to meet the Bureau of Land Management's obligation to implement the 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan. There is a need for this project in that the stands identified for treatment lack late-successional characteristics, an important component for an area that serves as a connectivity corridor for wildlife between the Cascades and the Coastal Ranges. The project's purpose is to enhance and/or maintain late successional forest conditions using silvicultural practices and prescribed fire.

The Upper Cow LSR Project Planning Area is located near Galesville Reservoir, east of I-5 and the community of Azaela within the Middle Cow Creek, Upper Cow Creek, and Days Creek-South Umpqua River 5th Field watersheds. All proposed project units are located on BLM-managed land within the Late Successional Reserve Land Use Allocation. The Planning Area legal description includes sections of Townships 31 and 32 South, in Ranges 3, 4 and 5 West, in Douglas County, Willamette Meridian.

The EA analyzed 3 Alternatives. Alternative 1 is the No Action Alternative. Under this Alternative, no action would occur and the project would not meet its purpose and need. Alternatives 2 and 3 are the Action Alternatives. The Action Alternatives would meet the purpose and need for this project and include the following activities:

	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Number of units	79	60
Treatment Type*		
Variable Density Thinning (VDT)	474	474
VDT / Understory Reduction	132	130
Density Management (DM)	182	12
DM / Understory Reduction	109	0
Restoration Thinning (RT)	143	140
RT / Understory Reduction	20	20
Legacy Tree Culturing (LTC)	7	0
LTC / Understory Reduction	4	0
Understory Reduction	302	415
Total Acres	1,373	1,193
Harvest Type		
Ground-based harvesting	248	187
Cable yarding	602	415
Helicopter yarding	221	176
Road Work Summary		
	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
	Approximate Amount (miles)	
New Temporary Route Construction	0.60	0.29
Existing Temporary Route Renovation/Reconstruction	1.60	1.42
Road Maintenance	63.4	57.11

* The definitions of treatment types can be found in the EA and the Reader's Guide on our website.

You can access the Upper Cow LSR Project EA, Draft FONSI, and Readers Guide on the BLM's ePlanning internet site at: <http://tinyurl.com/BLMePlanning-UpperCow>. If you do not have internet access, or would prefer a paper copy, please contact Ferris Fisher, Planning and Environmental Coordinator at (541) 471-6639 or ffisher@blm.gov. Paper copies of the project documents are also available at the Grants Pass Interagency Office at 2164 NE Spalding Ave, Grants Pass, OR 97526. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed on holidays.

Public Involvement

The 30-day comment period for the EA and Draft FONSI will begin when the legal notice is published in the *Grants Pass Daily Courier* and the *Roseburg News-Review* and posted online on February 9, 2016. Any comments you may have regarding this project must be received at the above address by the close of business on March 10, 2016 to be considered in the final decision making process. Please send hard copy or email comments to Ferris Fisher at the contact

information provided above.

All comments will be made available for public review. If you would like your personal information withheld from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, please state this clearly at the beginning of your written comment. All comments received from organizations or officials of organizations, businesses, or government agencies will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Thank you for your interest in the Upper Cow LSR Project. I look forward to your engagement and participation on public land management projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen Bollschweiler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Allen Bollschweiler
Field Manager,
Grants Pass Field Office

