

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Resource Management Plans (RMP) for Western Oregon

Background:

As required under the FLPMA and current BLM policy, the BLM updated its inventories of lands with wilderness characteristics for western Oregon in 2013. The impetus for this update was the need for accurate information to analyze during the BLM's RMPs for western Oregon planning effort. In conducting these inventories, the Districts followed BLM guidance to identify BLM lands that meet the following criteria: a) encompass at least 5,000 acres of roadless, contiguous BLM lands; b) appear to be in natural condition; c) provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The updated inventories identified 12 LWCs encompassing 90,003 acres of BLM land in western Oregon.

Key Points:

The BLM analyzed the extent to which each alternative and the Proposed RMP would protect or degrade inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics (i.e., size, naturalness, and either outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation).

The No Action alternative and Alternative D would provide no protection for inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics, and would include the most acreage of inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics of all alternatives and the Proposed RMP to the Harvest Land Base or within Recreation Management Areas where the BLM would manage for non-compatible recreation uses. As a result, wilderness characteristics would most quickly be lost under the No Action alternative and Alternative D, and would eventually be lost on all inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics in the decision area under these alternatives. Alternatives B and C would provide more protection of inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics than the No Action alternative and Alternative D, but less than Alternative A and the Proposed RMP.

Alternative A and the Proposed RMP—

- Would allocate the all inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics occurring outside of the O&C Harvest Land Base to the District-Designated Reserve – Lands Managed for their Wilderness Characteristics,
- Would include the least acreage of inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics to the Harvest Land Base, and
- Would not include any inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics within Recreation Management Areas where the BLM would manage for non-compatible recreation uses.

As a result, Alternative A and the Proposed RMP would provide the most protection of inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics by allocating the most acres as District-Designated Reserve – Lands Managed for their Wilderness Characteristics.

The Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon will determine how the BLM-administered lands in western Oregon will be managed to produce a sustained yield of timber products, to further the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide for clean water, to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, , to provide for recreation opportunities, and to coordinate management of lands surrounding the Coquille Forest with the Coquille Tribe.

For more information, please visit the BLM's Resource Management Plans of western Oregon website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/index.php>.

