

Issue Paper: Minerals

Resource Management Plans (RMP) for Western Oregon

Background:

Mineral materials are some of our most basic natural resources, such as sand, gravel, dirt, and rock, used in every day building and other construction uses. These materials generally are bulky and have low unit price. Their sheer weight makes their transportation costs very high. Adequate local supplies of these basic resources are vital to economic life of any community. BLM's policy is to make these materials available to the public and local governmental agencies whenever possible and wherever environmentally acceptable.

BLM sells mineral materials to the public at fair market value, but gives them free to states, counties, or other government entities for public projects. A limited amount may be provided free to non-profit groups. Materials obtained free of charge cannot be bartered or sold. BLM shares a portion of the revenues from the sale of mineral materials is shared with the state where the minerals are produced.



Key Points:

- Lands closed to salable mineral material disposal would decrease from 13 percent of the decision area under the No Action alternative to between 9 and 10 percent for the action alternatives and the Proposed RMP. The locations of these closed areas would be more widely dispersed in the action alternatives and the Proposed RMP than in the No Action alternative.
- Under the action alternatives and the Proposed RMP, the BLM would recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry between 6 and 8 percent of the decision area, in addition to the 4 percent already withdrawn.
 - Almost half of lands recommended for withdrawal under the Proposed RMP are ranked as high for mineral occurrence and development. The withdrawal of these lands from locatable mineral entry would curb the development of mineral resources.
- The decision area would remain open to leasable mineral development under various stipulations in the alternatives and the Proposed RMP, except where lands are already closed by legislation.

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>.