



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

Hole in the Road thinning project

Dear Interested Party;

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is considering a forest thinning/density management project in the Cascades Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management, Salem District. The *Hole in the Road* project is located in the Molalla Watershed approximately 20 miles southeast of the City of Molalla in Clackamas County, Oregon (See Enclosed Map). The purpose of the project is to achieve specific objectives identified in the Salem BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Matrix, Riparian Reserve (RR), Late Successional Reserve (LSR) Land Use Allocations (LUA) and acres within the Molalla River eligible Wild and Scenic River (W&S) boundary.

Approximately 440 acres of forest stands are proposed for thinning in a variety of age classes. Within the eligible W&S river boundary approximately 60 acres of 40 year old conifer plantations are proposed for thinning. Adjacent stands proposed for thinning on Matrix lands range in age from approximately 40 to 135 years. The LSR conifer stand proposed for treatment is approximately 65 years old. In the Riparian Reserve, approximately 25 acres are proposed for thinning treatment. The BLM is considering the *Hole in the Road* project to meet the following general objectives and management actions/direction:

- Matrix LUA – Manage timber stands to produce a sustainable supply of timber to provide jobs and contribute to community stability; provide a variety of habitat and other ecological functions; and provide early successional habitat (RMP p. 20). Management actions/direction also include (RMP pp. 20, 46-48, D-1 – D-3):
 - Preventing development of undesirable stand characteristics;
 - Provide habitat for a variety of organisms associated with both late-successional and younger forests; and
 - Selecting logging systems based on suitability and economic efficiency.
- RR LUA – Restore and maintain the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems and provide habitat for terrestrial species (RMP pp. 5, 9). Management actions/direction include applying silvicultural treatments to restore large conifers in RR, controlling stocking, managing stands, and acquiring desired vegetation characteristics (RMP pp. 7, 11).
- LSR LUA – Protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems (RMP p. 15). Management actions/directions also include (RMP D-6):
 - Applying density management prescriptions in stands under 80 years to produce stand structure and components associated with late-successional conditions, including large trees, snags, logs and variable densities of remaining trees.

- Create openings in the stands to encourage development of understory seedlings, saplings and other vegetation.
- W&S Rivers – This includes a 13.4 mile segment of the Molalla River, currently listed as “eligible or suitable for inclusion as components of the National Wild and Scenic River System”(RMP p. 38) It is defined as one-quarter mile on either side of the river (see enclosed maps). Management actions/direction include:
 - Protect segments free-flowing values and identified outstanding remarkable values; this includes visual management of Class II lands (RMP. pp.36, 38).
 - Exclude timber harvest in the Riparian Reserves (RMP p. 38).

The enclosed maps show the potential thinning units and other features including the Molalla eligible Wild and Scenic River boundaries. Related activities being considered for both areas are renovating existing roads and/or constructing new roads to provide access for logging, decommissioning or closing and stabilizing roads after logging, maintaining roads, improving or replacing culverts and fuels treatment.

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 an interdisciplinary team of BLM natural resource specialists to develop design features for the project and to assess the potential environmental effects. All areas proposed for treatment are currently accessible to the public.

The enclosed maps may also be found on the Salem District website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/plans/plans.php>. A Project Comment Form is also enclosed. I would appreciate your written comments by November 18th, 2015. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Salem District Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 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.

Sincerely,

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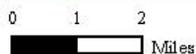
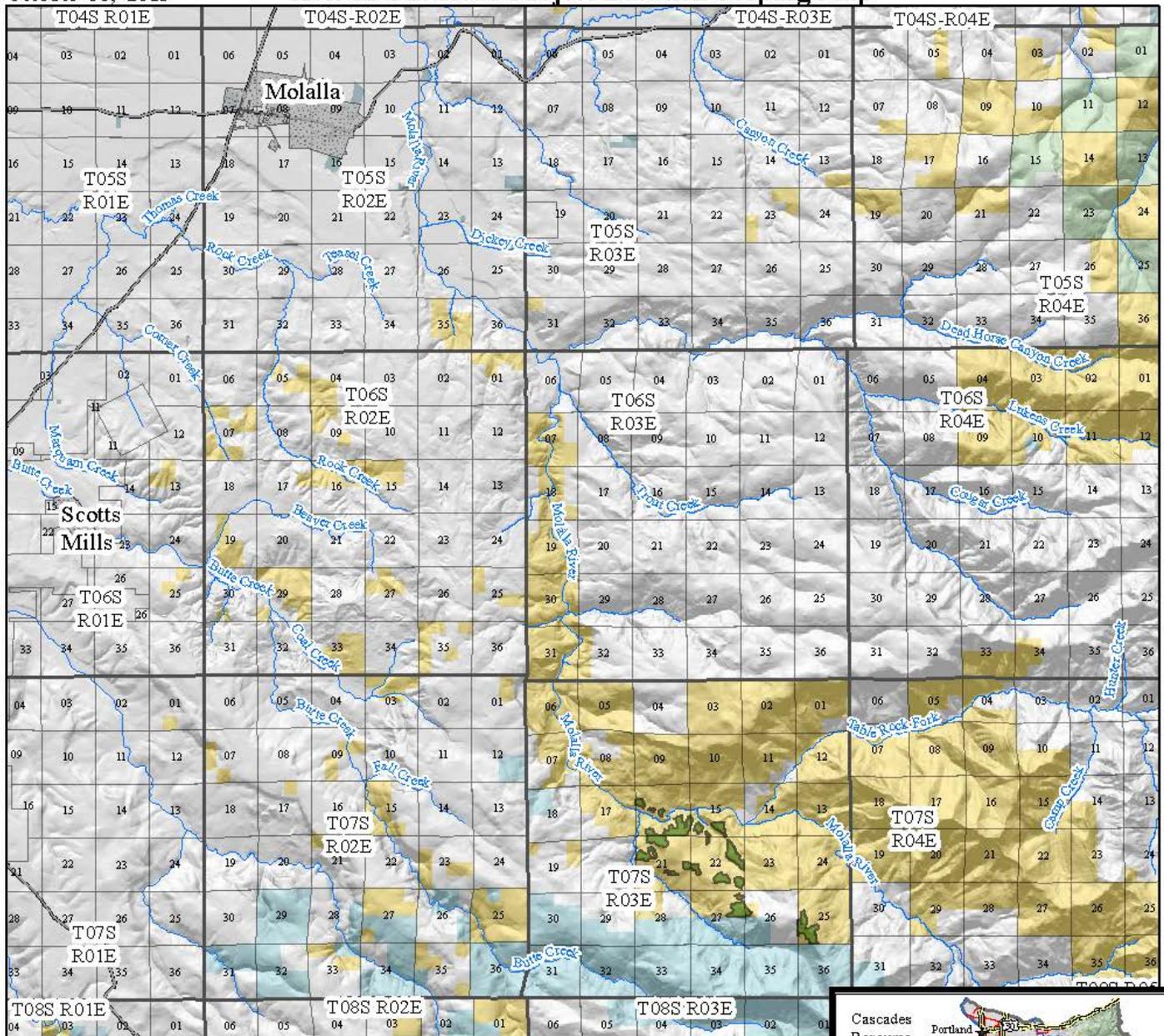
John Huston
Field Manager, Cascades Resource Area

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Salem District / Cascades Resource Area

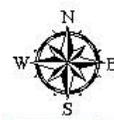
October 06, 2015

Hole In The Road Project Location Scoping Map



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

-  Highway
-  Perennial Stream
-  Scoping Units
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  U.S. Forest Service
-  State
-  Local Government
- Private/Unknown

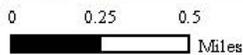
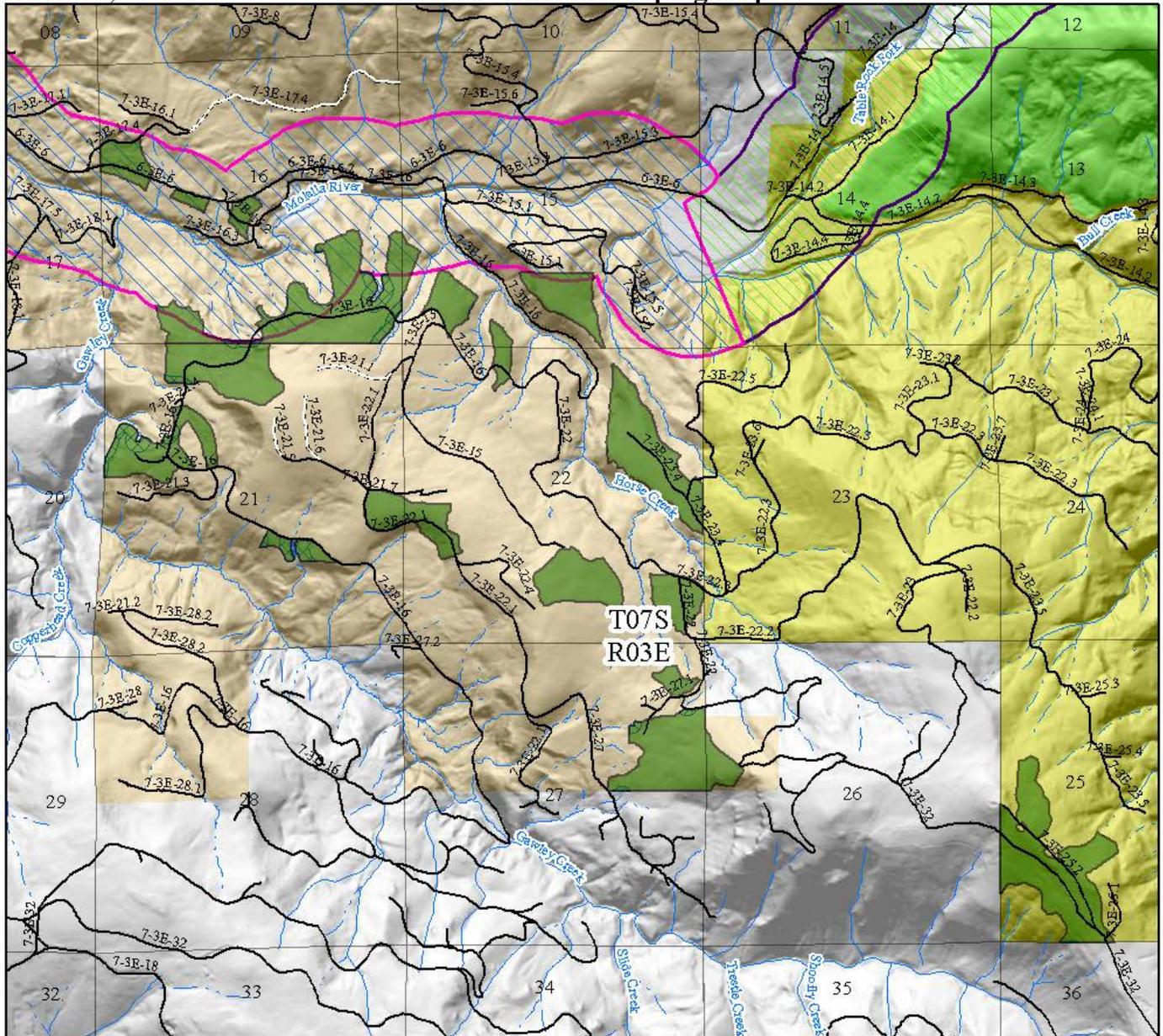


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Salem District / Cascades Resource Area

Hole In The Road Scoping Map

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- Existing Road
- Non Driveable Rd.
- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Riparian Reserve
- Scoping Units

Proposed Wild and Scenic River Corridor

- Segment meets requirements for RECREATIONAL river
- Proposed Wild and Scenic

Land Use Allocation

- Congressionally Reserved
- Late-Successional Reserve
- General Forest Management Area



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Please
place
stamp
here

Attention: John Huston
Cascades Field Manager
BLM – Salem District
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Salem, OR 97306