



# 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](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford)

1792 (ORM070)

DOI-BLM-ORWA-M070-2016-0001-EA JUN 22 2016

Dear Interested Party,

The Grants Pass Field Office has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Cold Elk Forest Management Project within policies set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA analyzes the effects of the Proposed Action to treat approximately 3,702 acres in the Matrix and Riparian Land Use Allocations under the 1994 Medford District Resource Management Plan/1995 Record of Decision (RMP/ROD). Treatments include variable density thinning, understory reduction, disease management, and roadside management prescriptions.

The planning area is located within the West Fork Cow Creek Watershed, in Coos and Douglas Counties, Oregon. The legal description of the planning area includes sections within Township 31 South, Range 8 West; Township 32 South, Range 8 West; Township 31 South, Range 9 West; Township 32 South, Range 9 West; and Township 32 South, Range 10 West.

Existing forest stand conditions demonstrate there is a need to treat in the West Fork Cow Creek watershed to meet multiple objectives under the Medford District RMP and other regulatory directives including the O&C Act. The proposed treatments are designed to provide a sustainable supply of timber, improve forest resiliency and enhance or maintain northern spotted owl habitat. There is a need to apply silvicultural treatments that reduce the long-term risk of disturbances such as disease outbreaks or potential catastrophic wildfire.

The following table provides a summary of the Proposed Action:

Alternative 2 Proposed Activities		Matrix LUA	Riparian Reserve LUA
Harvest Summary	Understory Reduction (UR)	214 acres	117 acres
	Variable Density Thinning (VDT)	1,810 acres	1,400 acres
	VDT/UR	91 acres	66 acres
	Disease Management	1 acres	3 acres
Operations Summary	Ground Based	655 acres	649 acres
	Cable/Skyline	1,099 acres	731 acres
	Helicopter	149 acres	88 acres
Temporary Route Construction Summary	Temporary Routes Construction	5.19 miles	0.45 miles
	Temporary Route Reconstruction	1.63 miles	0.29 miles
Roadside Management		13.5 miles	

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

## Public Involvement

The Cold Elk Forest Management EA and Draft FONSI are available for a 30-day public comment period, beginning July 5, 2016 by publication of a legal notice in the *Grants Pass Daily Courier* and the *Roseburg News Review*. You can access the project documents at the BLM's ePlanning website at <http://tinyurl.com/BLMePlanning-ColdElk>. Paper hard copies 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. Comments on the project must be received by close of business August 4, 2016 to be considered in the final decision making process. Please send hard copies to the above address or email to Leah Schofield, Planning and Environmental Coordinator at [lschofie@blm.gov](mailto:lschofie@blm.gov).

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.

A public meeting will be held on July 11, 2016 at the Grants Pass Interagency Office (address above) from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The meeting will provide interested members of the public an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the project. For more information about the meeting, please visit the website above or call at the number below.

We appreciate your involvement in Forest Management projects on your public lands. Should you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact Leah Schofield, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at (541) 471-6504.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Allen Bollschweiler', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Allen Bollschweiler,  
Field Manager  
Grants Pass Field Office