



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Medford District Office

3040 Biddle Road

Medford, Oregon 97504

email address: BLM_OR_MD_Mail@blm.gov

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8353(ORM060)

DEC 22 2014

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Ashland Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management Medford District Office is proposing to implement Phase 1 of the Jacksonville-to-Ashland Trail Project (Jack-Ash Trail) located in the Little Applegate fifth-field watershed. The proposed route of the Jack-Ash Trail is located primarily along the ridgelines of some of the Siskiyou Mountains between Mt. Ashland and Jacksonville, OR. The entire Jack-Ash route will eventually allow users to travel via foot, bicycle, or horseback from Ashland (or the Pacific Crest Trail) to Jacksonville using existing BLM and US Forest Service roads and several segments of new trail on both public and private lands.

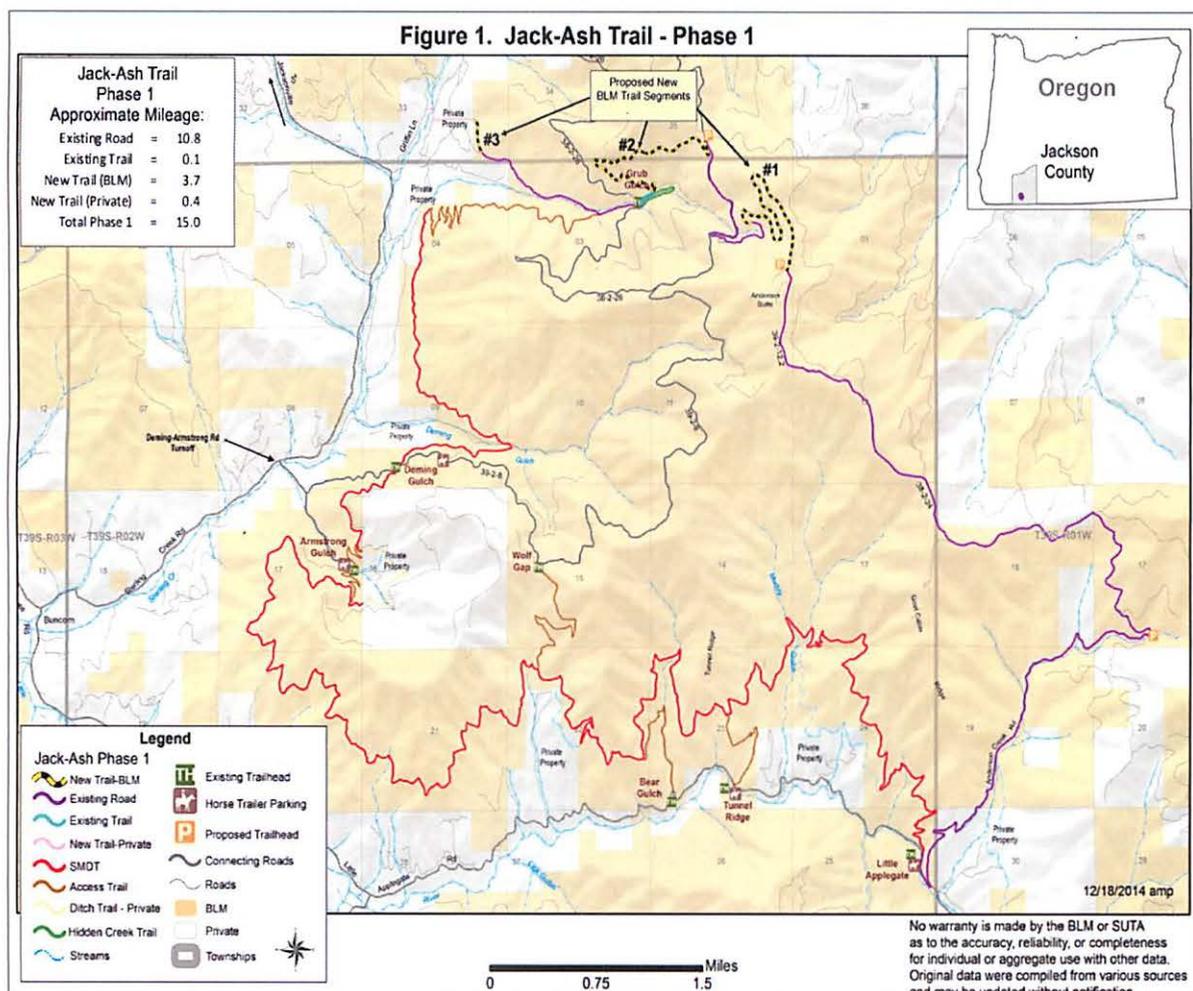
Why is BLM Proposing the Trail Project?

In cooperation with the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association (SUTA), BLM proposes to begin development on Phase 1 of the Jack-Ash trail route, involving construction of three segments of new trail. The new connecting trails along with the existing roads would be part of the Jack-Ash Trail route that would provide non-motorized users the opportunity of long loops which encompass the existing popular Sterling Mine Ditch Trail (Figure 1). Phase 1 would connect the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail at the southeast end (near the Little Applegate Trailhead) with the Jack-Ash route on Anderson Butte Road (BLM rd. 38-2-24) via Anderson Creek Road (also called Rush Creek Road) along Rush Creek. Also proposed is three new trail segments to be constructed on BLM-administered land that total three-and-three-quarter miles in length. The newly constructed trails would be located on the west facing slopes below Anderson Butte in the Grub Gulch drainage above Griffin Lane (Figure 1). The proposed project would connect the Anderson Butte road with the Armstrong-Deming road via a new trail (segment 1) approximately one-and-three-quarter miles long. Segment 2 would connect the Armstrong-Deming Road with the Grub Gulch Road (BLM rd. 38-2-26) via a new trail also about one-and-three-quarter miles in length. Segment 3 (about ¼ mile in length) would connect the Grub Gulch 'A' spur (BLM rd. 39-2-3.0) to a trail through private property that would connect the Jack-Ash Trail route to Griffin Lane. SUTA has obtained a non-motorized public use easement for the trail segment through private property and the construction of that segment is not part of the Phase 1 proposal.

What is BLM Asking the Public?

The BLM will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) that will document the estimated environmental effects of the proposed new trail construction of Phase 1 of the Jack-Ash Trail Project. In order to appropriately address issues relevant to the trail proposal in the EA, we are seeking your input. Comments should be as specific as possible and provide information on potential issues or concerns that the environmental analysis should address.

Please submit your comments to Bureau of Land Management, Medford District, Ashland Resource Area, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504 (Attention: Stephanie Kelleher, Phase 1 Jack-Ash Trail Project), or e-mail to Medford_Mail@blm.gov (Attention: Stephanie Kelleher) or call 541-618-2205 with questions. If you do not have comments at this time but wish to be kept informed about the Jack-Ash Trail Project as planning progresses, please complete and return the enclosed "Response Form" and you will remain on the mailing list. Your comments will be most useful if they are received by February 2, 2015. However, comments will be accepted and reviewed up until the time a decision on the project is made.



Before including your address, telephone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you are advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses submitted on official letterheads and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Gerritsma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

John Gerritsma
Field Manager
Ashland Resource Area

Enclosures

Enclosure 1

INTEREST RESPONSE FORM

ATTN: Ashland Resource Area Planning
Phase 1 Jack-Ash Trail Project
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504

Please include me on the *Jack-Ash Trail Project* mailing list:

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State Zip Code: _____

Email _____

I prefer to be kept informed via Email Snail mail

We are trying to save paper and conserve resources. Please respond if you wish to be kept informed, otherwise you will be taken off the mailing list.