

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Transportation Management Plan

The Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is initiating a comprehensive transportation management planning process for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM).

Background

The CSNM was reserved in June 2000 by presidential proclamation in recognition of its remarkable ecology and to protect a diverse range of biological, geological, aquatic, archeological and historic objects. The BLM manages the CSNM in accordance with the direction in the 2008 Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Record of Decision (ROD) and Resource Management Plan (RMP).

The transportation system within the monument includes roads and other travel ways used to access the CSNM. The CSNM ROD/RMP recognized that management of the BLM transportation network within the CSNM “must consider the protection of natural resources, including the ‘objects of biological interest’; access for recreation and resource management; access requirements of adjacent landowners; and wildfire suppression access needs on BLM lands, as well as on adjacent public and private lands.” The CSNM ROD/RMP also recognized that “extensive road networks can result in negative impacts on wildlife and aquatic species and habitats; impaired hydrologic function; introduction and spread of exotic species; reductions in site productivity; and increased sediment production.”

The CSNM ROD/RMP evaluated the transportation system and approved decommissioning 53 miles of road; identified approximately 24 miles of road that were not believed to be necessary for management and needed further evaluation; and identified routes authorized for snowmobile and bicycle use.

Since 2008, significant changes have occurred within the CSNM. In 2009, the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act designated 24,100 acres of the CSNM as wilderness. The BLM has also acquired approximately 3,000 additional acres within the

monument. Additional acquisitions are funded and pending.

Scope

This transportation management process will address only with the transportation system outside the designated Soda Mountain Wilderness (SMW). Treatment of the roads closed within the wilderness is addressed in the *Soda Mountain Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment* which is currently being finalized.



An entry road into the monument.

Transportation Management Plan

This transportation planning process will determine which roads/routes will be left open, closed, or decommissioned and the means for doing so in accordance with CSNM RMP objective to “maintain a road network within the monument that allows for ecosystem restoration and provides for human access needs.”

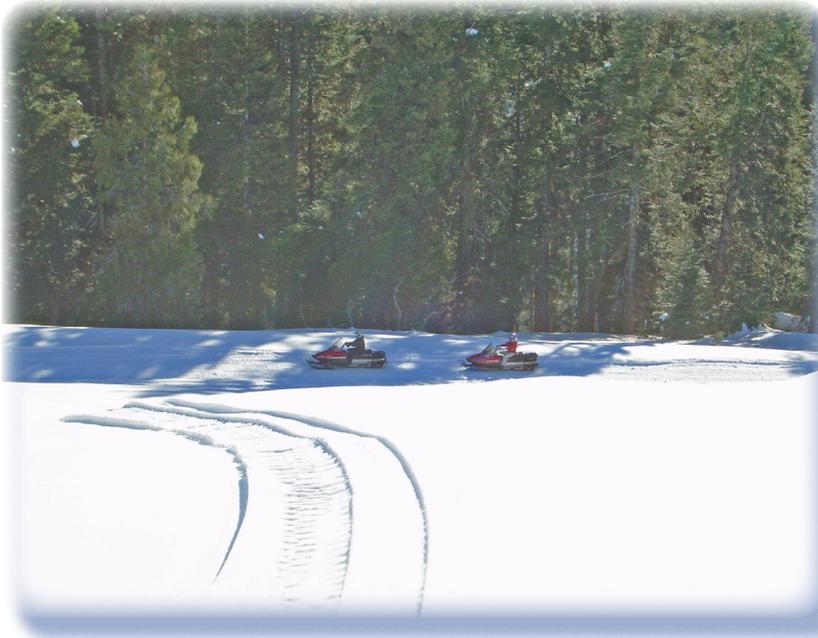
The BLM has completed an intensive field inventory of the roads and related drainage facilities within the CSNM. There are approximately 350 miles of road in the CSNM outside the wilderness.

The BLM will evaluate a range of alternatives for the road network that facilitate the protection of monument resources while maintaining the appropriate



level of access for private property owners, resource management, wildfire suppression, law enforcement, and other administrative needs.

including through posting on the internet. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.



Snowmobile route in the monument.

Although you will be provided with an additional opportunity to make further comments upon completion of the environmental assessment, we are requesting your input now so that it can be considered early in the planning process. We look forward to working with you throughout the process to address the transportation system within the CSNM. Please submit your comments by Monday, April 2, 2012. Your comments should be mailed to John Gerritsma at the following address.

**Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
Ashland Resource Area
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504
Attention: John Gerritsma**

How Can You Participate?

We are now in the scoping phase of the environmental analysis under NEPA. This means that any comments you have and choose to submit will be used to develop issues, mitigation measures and alternatives for transportation management within the CSNM.

We welcome ideas on potential methods for addressing restoration needs and reducing road densities while maintaining the necessary transportation system to facilitate protection of monument resources and providing the appropriate level of access. Comments that clearly articulate site-specific suggestions, issues or concerns are the most useful.

Comments, including names, street addresses, and other contact information of respondents, will be available for public review. Before including your address, telephone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time,



Typical road in the CSNM.

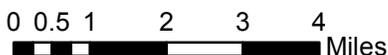
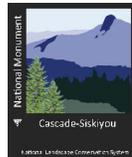
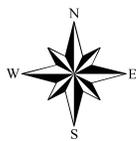
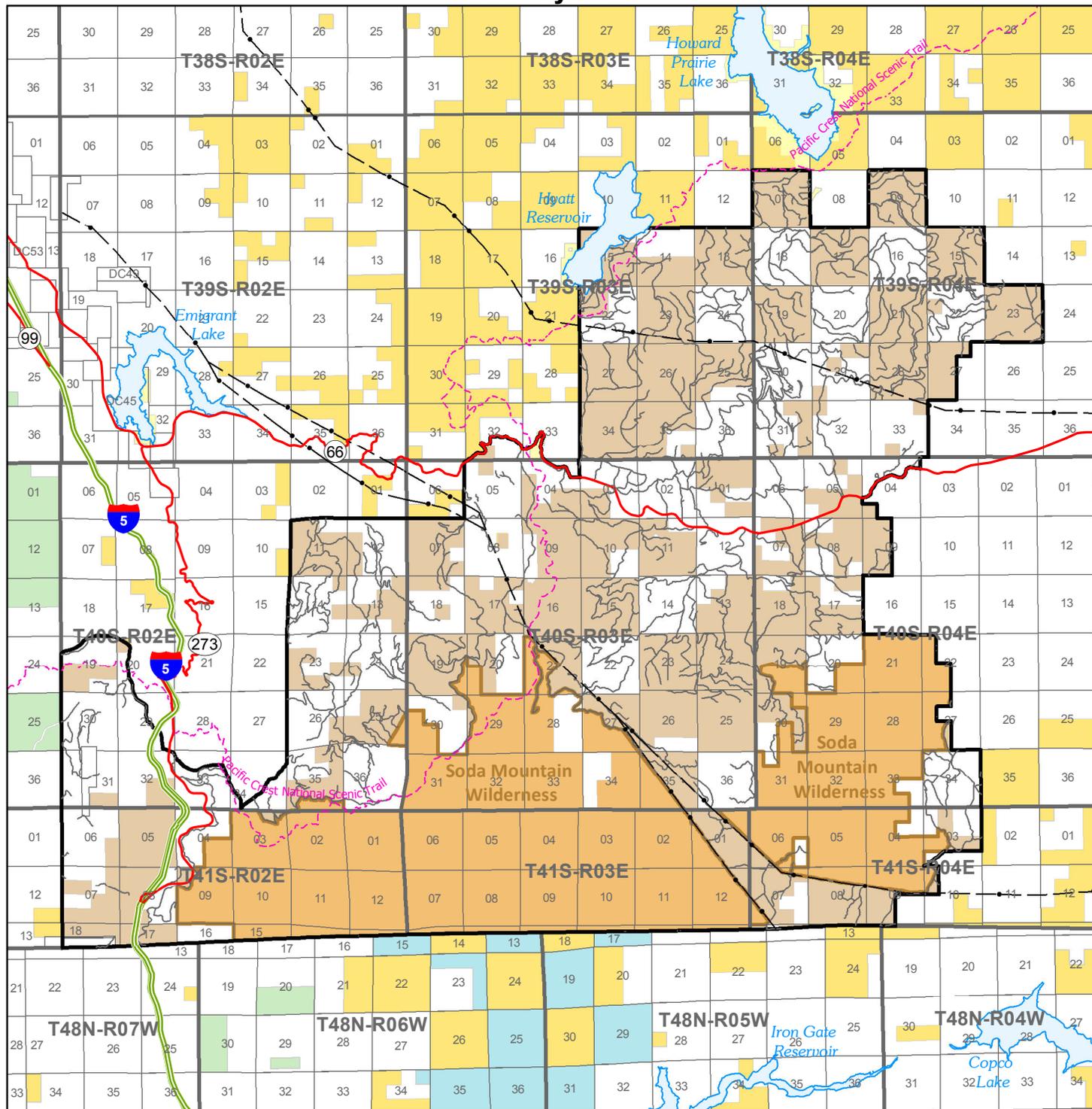
Who Should You Contact for Technical Information on this Plan?

Kathy Minor is the Project Leader for the CSNM Transportation Management Plan. Please feel free to contact Kathy at 541.618.2245 for clarification or additional information.



Road with drainage concerns.

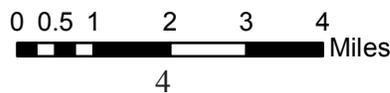
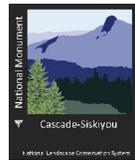
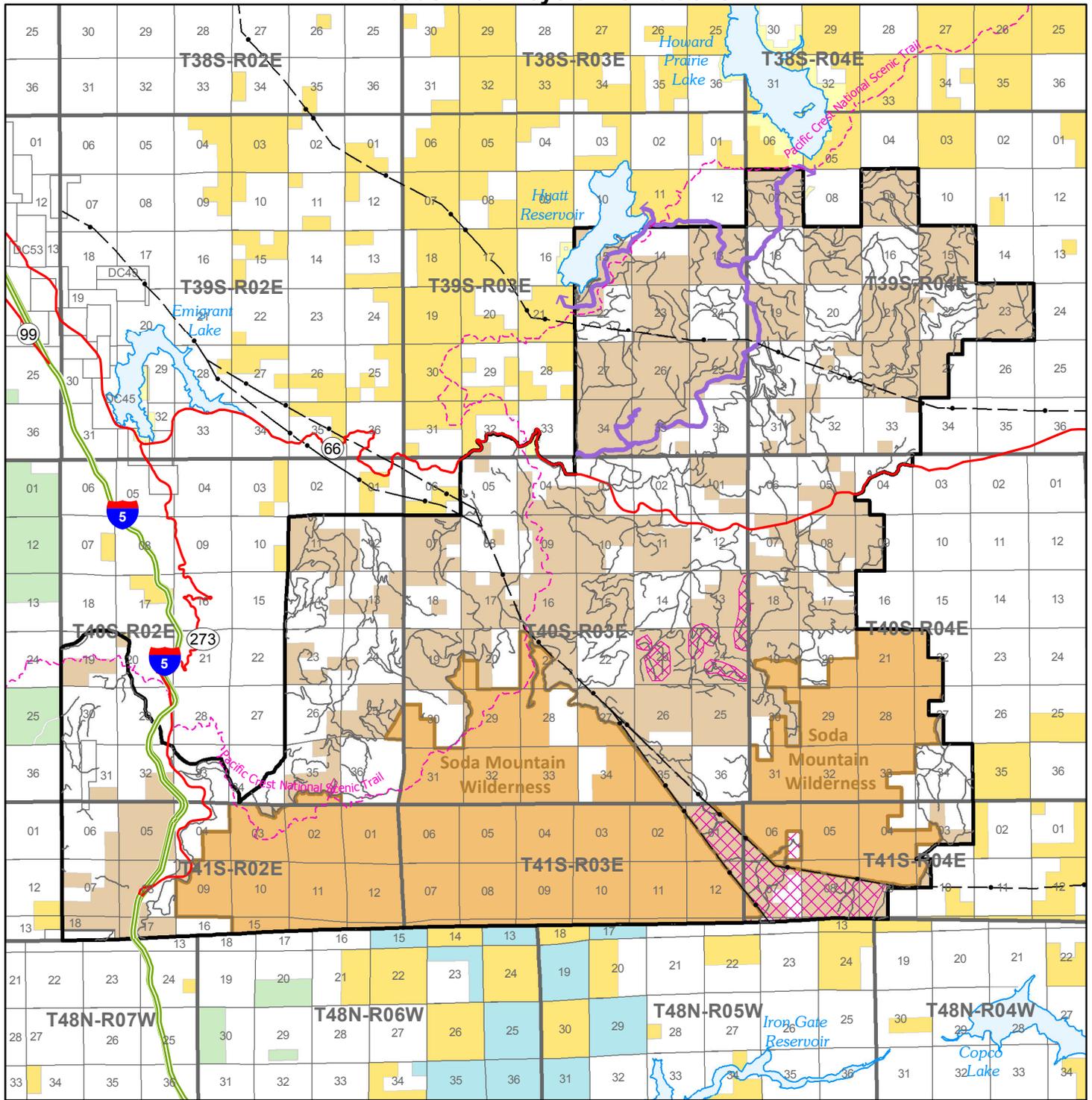
Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Road System



Legend

- Roads
- Greater CSNM Boundary
- Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
- Soda Mountain Wilderness
- Other Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- Other Federal
- State
- Private/Unknown

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Snowmobile Routes Currently Used Roads with Bicycle Prohibitions



Legend

- Snowmobile Routes
- Roads
- Greater CSNM Boundary
- Bicycle Restricted Roads
- Soda Mountain Wilderness
- Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
- Other Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- Other Federal
- State
- Private/Unknown