



## United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Salem District Office  
1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon 97306  
<http://www.or.blm.gov/salem>

AUG 15 2016

Dear Interested Public:

The Cascades Field Office of the Salem District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in the early stages of the Crutcher Bench and Highland Butte Communication Tower Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-ORWA-S040-2016-0036-EA). The enclosed Scoping Record provides maps and details on the proposal.

The purpose of this letter is to give you an opportunity to share any comments or concerns you may have about the project. The input you provide will help an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists analyze the proposal.

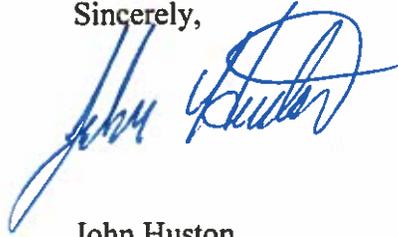
Written comments or questions regarding the project may be sent to Mike Mathews, Natural Resource Staff Administrator, Cascades Field Office, BLM Salem District, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, or submitted by email to [mmathews@blm.gov](mailto:mmathews@blm.gov). Comments, including names and 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. Additionally, comments may be submitted on the attached **Interest Response Form** and returned to the above address.

Additional project information can be found at the Salem District ePlanning webpage: <http://www.tinyurl.com/C800CommunicationSites>. Comments may also be submitted via ePlanning under "How to Get Involved" on the left side of the webpage. I would appreciate your written comments by close of business on September 16, 2016.

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.

Your interest in the management of public lands is appreciated and we encourage your participation during this public scoping process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Huston", written in a cursive style.

John Huston  
Field Manager, Cascades Field Office

Enclosures

# **Crutcher Bench and Highland Butte Communication Tower Scoping Record**

## **Why Here and Now?**

Clackamas 800 Radio Group (C800) contacted the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 2016 with a completed application for an easement to construct two communication towers. C800 is an organization comprised of a number of public safety agencies (police and fire) including the following: Clackamas County Sheriff, Clackamas County Public Health, City of Canby, City of Gladstone, City of Lake Oswego, City of Molalla, City of Oregon City, City of Sandy, City of West Linn, Boring Fire District, Canby Fire District, Clackamas County Fire District #1, Estacada Fire District, Molalla Fire District, Sandy Fire District and Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue.

The proposed installation locations include: 1) Crutcher Bench- Township 2 South, Range 7 East, Section 28 on Tax Lot 1700, Clackamas County (Map – Crutcher Bench). The proposed location intends to improve emergency communication services in areas of Zig Zag, Welches and Brightwood along Highway 26; 2) Highland Butte -Township 4 South, Range 3 East, and Section 9 on Tax Lot 800, Clackamas County(Map – Highland Butte). The proposed location intends to improve emergency communication services in the central portions of Clackamas County including the communities of Central Point, Carus, Upper Highland, Massinger Corner, Fallsvew, Mulino, and Union Mills

Emergency communication services in this area are currently substandard and the primary purpose is to expand communication services for public agencies with regard to emergency services and response time. The C800 group evaluated several other locations which were found to be ineffective due to location to the target areas and terrain which hindered coverage.

## **Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action is to issue a right-of-way grant that would authorize C800 to construct two communication towers. The authorization would grant construction as well as operations and maintenance for 25 years.

## Physical description

The freestanding lattice communication towers stand 190' tall. The compounds would contain the tower, a shelter, propane tank, and a power transformer and would be enclosed in a 6 foot chain link fence. Combined, the compounds would require clearing vegetation on 0.12 acres.

Access to the Crutcher Bench site would utilize an existing road servicing the BPA power lines with a newly graded 360' drive to the compound. Access to the Highland Butte Site would utilize an existing road (Rd.4-3E-9) to the communication site with a reroute of the initial access point to improve ingress and egress safety.