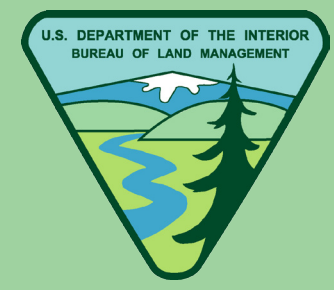


Thurston Hills
**Non-Motorized Trails and Forest
Management EA**
Public Open House

WELCOME



Welcome to the Thurston Hills EA Open House!

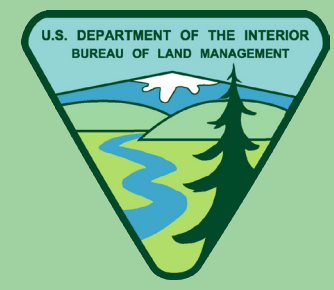
The proposed project is to develop a non-motorized trail system in the Willamalane Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA), in partnership with the Willamalane Park and Recreation District (WPRD).

The 1,000 acre ERMA was created by BLM's 2016 Resource Management Plan (RMP) in response to the growing recreation demands in the Eugene-Springfield area.

The RMP:

- Established allowable uses on the non-motorized trail system within the Willamalane Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) to include hiking and mountain biking.
- Established that most of the lands in the ERMA are also within the Harvest Land Base (HLB), which means they will be used for timber production and sale, in addition to recreation.

The BLM has developed project alternatives in response to RMP direction and public scoping comments. The project team is starting to evaluate environmental impacts in an Environmental Assessment (EA) and is seeking public input on alternatives and issues for analysis.

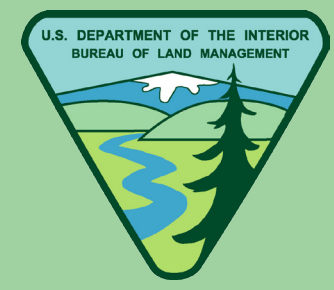


How you can participate

- Talk with the project team to learn more
- Fill out a comment form and leave it in the comment box
- Take a form home for yourself, friends, family or neighbors to complete
- Email comments to espaulding@langdongroupinc.com

*Please submit comments by **Nov. 21, 2017***





Key Project Components

Recreation

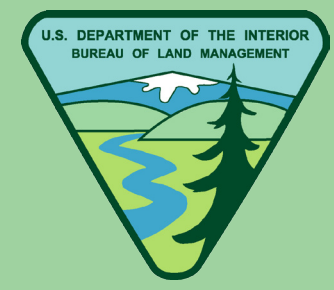
- Project alternatives include a range of trail miles, features, and difficulty levels
- The trail system would connect to and complement the trail experiences of the adjacent Willamalane Parks and Recreation network

Timber Harvest and Forest Management

- Project alternatives include a range of timber harvest levels
- Timber harvest design is aligned with the RMP's Management Direction to contribute to the Upper Willamette Field Office's required timber volumes, known as the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ)
- Forest management would include a variety of fuels reduction actions

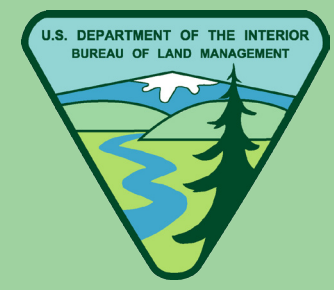
Safety

- BLM and project partners propose a strong law enforcement presence to monitor and resolve trespass, vagrancy and other illegal activities



EA Analysis Issues *as of Nov. 1, 2017*

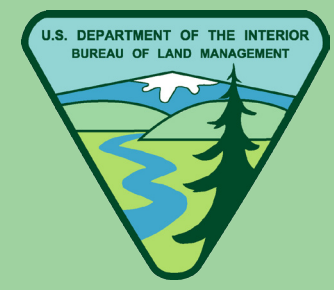
- Trespass, vagrancy, litter, traffic and noise (*79th Street*)
- Risk of Wildfire
- Recreational experiences and levels of difficulty for mountain biking and hiking
- Risk of Noxious weed infestation
- Risk of Soil erosion
- Costs and revenues associated with trails and timber harvest
- Water quantity changes (*annual water yield, peak flow, summer base flow, and groundwater levels*)
- Water quality changes (*sediment, turbidity, max. stream temps*)
- Carbon storage and greenhouse gas changes
- Effects on BLM Special status plant and fungi populations
- Effects on late-successional forest characteristics (*tree mortality, gaps, understory, biomass accumulation, snag creation*)
- Effects on Northern Spotted Owl habitat
- Effects on BLM Sensitive Species' and migratory bird habitat



Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

- Do not implement any regeneration harvest (allow thinning harvest only)
- Provide connections to the proposed trail system from the former Weyerhaeuser haul roads and from 66th Street
- Allow equestrian use on some trails
- Allow hunting in the ERMA
- Develop a trail system in Section 5 of the ERMA





Alternatives

Alternative 1 - No Action

Alternative 2 - Optimized Trails

Alternative 3 - Optimized Timber

Alternative 4 - Balanced Trails and Timber

