



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Medford District Office

3040 Biddle Road

Medford, Oregon 97504

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford>

(ORM060)

BLM Ashland Field Office

Re: Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project
[DOI-BLM-ORWA-M060-2020-0001-EA](#)

Dear Interested Public:

The Ashland Field Office, Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is requesting public comments on the Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project Environmental Assessment (EA). The Bear Grub project is located on BLM-administered lands near the community of Ruch and southwest of the city of Medford, in Jackson County, Oregon. The EA includes an analysis of proposed vegetation management activities on up to **4,910 acres** of BLM-administered land, which includes:

Hazardous fuels reduction treatments (i.e. small diameter thinning and prescribed fire) on **3,465 acres**.

Timber harvest (i.e. selection harvest, commercial thinning), and follow-up activity fuels treatments on up to **1,445 acres**.

The BLM analyzed three action alternatives and a No Action Alternative in the EA. The action alternatives (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4) differ in the type of harvest prescribed or the amount of retention prescribed.

The EA is available online on the BLM's National ePlanning register at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/home>. You can also use the map search or enter the NEPA number: [DOI-BLM-ORWA-M060-2020-0001-EA](#) to find the project website. For a direct link to the project, please go to: <https://go.usa.gov/xw8Vw>. Paper copies are also available upon request. Please direct EA requests, comments, or questions to the Ashland Planning and Environmental Coordinator. There are three options to submit comments on the EA:

1. Submit comments via the BLM's ePlanning NEPA register project website by selecting the Documents section and clicking on "Participate Now" in the webpage.

****Preferred method***

2. Email comments to BLM_OR_AFO_VMP@blm.gov, subject line "Comments"
3. Mail comments to BLM, Attn: AFO Planning, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504

For comments to be considered before a final decision is made on the proposal, please submit them by 4:30 p.m. on July 13, 2020.

All substantive comments received by the date above will be considered before the BLM reaches a decision to the extent feasible (40 CFR 1503.4). Specific and substantive comments are the most helpful. Substantive comments do one or more of the following:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the EA;
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of, methodology of, or assumptions used for the EA;
- Present new information relevant to the analysis;
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the EA that meet the purpose and need;

In conjunction with the public comment period, the BLM has scheduled a virtual public meeting that will be held on two different dates and times. The material presented at each meeting will be the same, and two dates have been scheduled to accommodate more people.

- June 23rd, 2020, 6:00-8:00 pm, (Technology Test 5:00-5:30pm)
- June 25th, 2020, 1:00-3:00 pm, (Technology Test 12:00-12:30pm)

At the virtual public meeting, the BLM will provide a project overview. This will be held using the Zoom platform and space is limited. To register for a meeting, please read and fill out the requested information found on the “Bear Grub Virtual Public Meeting Registration Instructions” and email to BLM_OR_AFO_VMP@blm.gov, subject line “Registration and Questions”.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project. Your input plays an important role in our land management decisions.

Sincerely,

Lauren Brown
Field Manager
Ashland Field Office

Please note: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. AUTHORITY: 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5