



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>

1792(ORM060)

Dear Interested Public:

The Decision Record (DR) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project are available for public viewing on the BLM ePlanning website at <https://go.usa.gov/xw8Vw>.

This decision authorizes the following actions:

- The Bear Grub Timber Sale, which includes an advertised timber harvest and follow-up non-commercial treatments on 1,415 acres of BLM-administered lands, and associated transportation management actions.
- 30 acres of forest management actions that are not part of the advertised Bear Grub timber sale. Approximately 30 acres of commercial timber harvest (Selection Harvest), follow-up activity fuels treatments, and approximately 1.35 miles of access road renovations for timber haul to be implemented through one or more small timber sales.
- Non-commercial fuels reduction treatments on approximately 3,465 acres of BLM administered lands.

The actions of this decision were analyzed in the associated *Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project Environmental Assessment* (EA) (DOI-BLM-ORWA-M060-2020-0001-EA). The EA was published on June 11, 2020, and made available for public viewing on the BLM ePlanning website (above). The Notice of EA Availability for Comment was published in the legal section of Medford's *Mail Tribune* newspaper on June 11th, 2020, beginning a 30-day public review period that ended on July 13th, 2020.

I read and considered the submitted comments on the Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project EA and have included responses to substantive comments received during the public comment period as an attachment to the Decision Record (*Attachment 1- Response to EA Comments*).

Based on internal and external review of the EA (including public comments), I have decided, as part of the Decision Record, to release the EA for this project with revisions to clarify portions of the analysis and to make corrections to the EA. New or revised text appears in blue in the EA. These revisions do not alter the overall findings of the analysis, but provide further clarifications based on comments received.

In accordance with Forest Management regulations at 43 CFR Subpart 5003—Administrative Remedies, protests of a decision, including a timber sale decision, may be filed with the Authorized Officer within 15 days of the publication date of the Notice of Decisions or Notice of Sale in the *Medford Mail Tribune* newspaper, Medford, Oregon. The protest must clearly, and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being protested and the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error.

Protests submitted electronically by email must be submitted to BLM_OR_AFO_VMP@blm.gov and must be received by the authorized officer before 4:30 p.m. PST. Protests submitted by mail should be sent to the Medford District Office located at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504, ATTN: AFO, Bear Grub VMP. For more information about this project contact John Schumacher at (541) 618-2450.

Sincerely,

Lauren Brown
Field Manager
Ashland Field Office