



NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS

Scoping Report

Resource Management Plan for Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument



November 2023

CSNM RMP SCOPING REPORT

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Chapter 1. Introduction and Planning Area

1.1. OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have begun the process of revising the 2008 Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM). The purpose of revising the RMP is to provide a management framework, including objectives and management direction, that guides the BLM's management of public lands in the CSNM in a manner that protects and restores the objects of scientific and historic interest identified in Presidential Proclamations 7318 and 9564.

1.2. WHAT IS A SCOPING REPORT?

This scoping report is designed to provide a summary of comments and issues that the public provided to the BLM during the scoping period for the CSNM RMP Revision. This comment period, known as scoping, ran from June 9 until August 8, 2023. The scoping report identifies the topics covered in the submitted comments and lays out the issues that should be explored and resolved through the planning effort. It also explains why some issues raised in the comments do not fall within the scope of the planning effort.

1.3. BACKGROUND

On June 13, 2000, President Clinton signed Presidential Proclamation 7318 (65 FR 37249) designating the CSNM in southwest Oregon near the communities of Medford and Ashland. The Proclamation identified the ecological wonders and unique biological diversity of the area as the primary reason for the proclamation and included numerous objects of scientific and historic interest within the CSNM boundary that warranted protection, including, but not limited to, a landscape of ecological wonder with unmatched biological diversity that provides habitat connectivity, watershed protection, and landscape-scale resilience for the area's critically important natural resources.

At the time of designation, the CSNM included 52,947 acres of federal land administered by the BLM, Medford District. Additionally, there were approximately 32,000 acres of privately owned land within the Monument boundary. Private lands within the Monument boundary are not part of the Monument. In March 2009, Congress designated the now 24,707-acre Soda Mountain Wilderness (SMW) within the boundary of the CSNM (Public Law 111-11, Section 1405).

In January 2017, President Obama signed Presidential Proclamation 9564 (82 FR 6145, January 18, 2017) expanding the size of the CSNM. The current boundary now includes approximately 113,506 acres of BLM-administered lands in the Medford and Lakeview Districts in Oregon, and the Northern California District in California. The expanded Monument now includes Horseshoe Ranch, most of the Jenny Creek watershed, the Grizzly Peak area, Lost Lake, the Rogue Valley foothills, the Southern Cascades area, and the area surrounding Surveyor Mountain—a Cascade-Siskiyou landscape providing vital habitat connectivity, watershed protection, and landscape-

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scale resilience for the area's critically important natural resources. The expansion bolsters resource protection within the original Monument boundaries and protects the important biological and historic resources within the expansion area.

In response to Proclamation 9564, multiple plaintiffs sued the President and BLM, claiming that the Monument expansion violated the 1937 Oregon and California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act). In 2017, two plaintiffs filed separate suits in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. A third plaintiff filed suit in the District of Oregon. In September 2019, the District of Oregon upheld the Monument expansion, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court in April 2023. In November 2019, the District Court for the District of Columbia found the Monument expansion violated the O&C Act by "reserving land governed by the O&C Act from sustained yield timber production" and held Proclamation 9564 "invalid and unenforceable as applied to land subject to the O&C Act." The government appealed this decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, which reversed the District Court on July 18, 2023, and upheld the Monument expansion. The BLM is exercising its discretion to initiate planning steps with the understanding that BLM retains the ability to modify or terminate any planning effort in response to the outcome of the litigation. (The eventual size of the decision area will need to be consistent with the litigation outcome.)

In March 2019, Congress designated the Jenny Creek and Spring Creek Wild and Scenic Rivers, primarily in the CSNM (Public Law 116-9). These designated rivers are classified as scenic and are now managed as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

1.4. DESCRIPTION OF THE DECISION AND PLANNING AREA

The CSNM boundary, as identified by Presidential Proclamation 9564, constitutes the planning area for this RMP process. The RMP's decision area includes the 113,506 acres of BLM-administered lands within the planning area. This is the specific area for which the BLM has authority to make land use and management decisions.

Lands within the planning area reflect a checkerboard pattern of ownership; this is more the case in the CSNM expansion area than in the original boundary because the BLM has acquired, primarily through Land and Water Conservation Funds, an additional 13,000 acres that were once private lands within the original boundary. An exception to the checkerboard pattern of ownership is the Soda Mountain Wilderness, located in the southern portion of the planning area. All lands within the Soda Mountain Wilderness are managed by the BLM.

The Bureau of Reclamation administers approximately 80 acres, around Hyatt Reservoir and Howard Prairie Reservoir within the planning area. The land administered by the Bureau of Reclamation is used primarily for canal purposes to transport water from Howard Prairie Reservoir to Keene Creek Reservoir and the area around Hyatt Reservoir includes the Wildcat Campground, a primitive campground managed by the BLM.

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The planning area is in the states of Oregon and California and includes lands within Jackson and Klamath Counties in Oregon, and Siskiyou County in California. The BLM-administered lands in the planning area are currently managed under three different RMPs – the 2008 Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument RMP, the 2016 Southwestern Oregon RMP, and the 1993 Redding RMP.

Chapter 2. Public Involvement Process

2.1. PURPOSE OF SCOPING

The purpose of scoping is to provide the public an opportunity to help with the resource management planning process. The scoping process ensures that the public provides early input in identifying critical management concerns to determine the scope of the environmental analysis, including issues for analysis and alternatives development.

What is Scoping?

Scoping is "... an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action." (40 CFR 1501.7)

2.2. SCOPING OUTREACH METHODS

The BLM contracted with the Langdon Group to conduct a pre-scoping assessment with key interested and potentially affected parties on the CSNM RMP Revision. The Situation Assessment identified areas of interest and generated a list of interested parties, identified issues for consideration in scoping, and input received helped inform the BLM's public involvement process. Ninety-one confidential interviews were conducted between December 2022 and February 2023 with BLM employees, Native American Tribes, and interested or potentially affected parties/individuals. The Situation Assessment report is available on the CSNM RMP [ePlanning page](#).

The BLM conducted outreach to the public regarding the scoping period using the following methods:

- Publishing news releases on June 9, 2023, and print ads in local newspapers on June 15, 2023 in the Rogue Valley Times; June 21, 2023 in the Herald and News; and June 23, 2023 in the Daily Courier.
- Posting informational documents and public scoping meeting information on the BLM's CSNM RMP ePlanning page on June 9, 2023.
- Posting public meeting notices at trailheads and informational kiosks.
- Sending an email notice to interested parties on June 12, 2023 and a reminder on upcoming public meetings on June 22, 2023.
- Sending 637 individual informational mailings to landowners located within the planning area between June 27 and June 30, 2023.

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- **Posting** on social media entities informing the public of the scoping period and the upcoming meetings on June 16, 2023.
- The BLM created two project informational fliers including meeting dates, contact phone number and email (Figures 1 and 2, Appendix).



Figure 1- CSNM RMP Schedule and Contact Info

Notice of Public Comment Period

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public input to inform a new land-use plan for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM). The resource management plan is being developed to encompass all lands in the Monument under one plan to provide cohesive, long-range management objectives and direction.

The BLM will hold four public meetings, three in-person open houses and one virtual, to gather input on resource management concerns, which can help determine the scope of the environmental review.

The public is invited to attend the meetings to learn more about the project, speak with resource specialists and to submit written comments.

Written comments must be submitted during the comment period starting June 16, 2023. Comments must be received by August 5, 2023.

Written comments may also be submitted through the following methods:

- Website: www.blm.gov/CSNMScopingComment
- Email: blm_csnm_rmp@blm.gov
- Phone: (458) 246-8861

Public Meetings

- JUNE 16, 2023**
4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (PT) Come any time.
Klamath Community College,
Building 4, Commons
7390 S. 6th Street
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
- JUNE 26, 2023**
4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (PT) Come any time.
Finnhirst School
15337 Hwy. 66
Ashland, OR 97520
- JUNE 29, 2023**
4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (PT) Come any time.
Abraham Lincoln Elementary School,
California
3101 McLoughlin Dr.
Medford, OR 97504
- JULY 10, 2023**
Virtual Meeting - Zoom
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (PT)
Brief presentation at 6:00 p.m.,
followed by question and answers.
Register here: www.blm.gov/CSNMScopingMeeting

Figure 2- CSNM RMP Notice of Public Comment

2.3. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF INTENT

On June 9, 2023, the BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register (FRN Vol. 88 No. 111) initiating the public scoping process for the CSNM RMP Revision and associated EIS.

2.4. PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The BLM held a series of public scoping meetings in-person and virtually to provide information on the RMP process, preliminary issues, the Analysis of the Management Situation and Planning Criteria, and the opportunity to submit written comments.

In-person meetings took place in Klamath Falls, Greensprings, and Medford, OR and were held in an open house format where attendees walked around to view planning information and resource display boards, ask questions of the BLM staff and management, and submit written comments. Information on the background of the CSNM, the timeline for the RMP process, summaries of preliminary issues, and instructions on how to submit a comment were displayed. Large reference maps of lands within the planning area and maps from the Analysis of the Management Situation were available as references. Seven stations for preliminary issues were staffed with resource specialists from the BLM. BLM staff were available to provide background information on preliminary issues and answer questions. See the Appendix for Public Meeting Display Boards. Official comments were accepted in written form as a comment card or the public was directed to submit comments through on the ePlanning page or in writing to the CSNM RMP mailing address.

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On June 26, 2023, the BLM held the first of three open houses in Klamath Falls at the Klamath Community College. Seventeen individuals attended the open house and included private property owners, representatives from a local Tribe, ranching operations in Klamath County, and recreation groups.

On June 28, 2023, the BLM held the second open house in the Greensprings area of Ashland at the Pinehurst School, a community within the CSNM. Forty-five individuals attended the open house and included private property owners, ranching operations, and representatives from recreation and friends groups.

On June 29, 2023, the BLM held the last in-person open house in Medford at the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. Twenty-eight individuals attended the open house and included private property owners, elected officials, representatives from recreation and hunting interest groups, and research and science partners at the local university.

On July 10, 2023, the BLM held a virtual open house meeting using the Zoom platform. The meeting included a short slide presentation from the planning team using the same information displayed at the in-person open houses. Information presented included an overview of the RMP and scoping process and a summary of preliminary issues from resource specialists. Following the presentation, the meeting transitioned to a question-and-answer session, where members of the public could ask questions for the BLM staff. The meeting was recorded and added to the ePlanning page.

Table 1-1 (Public scoping meetings in 2023) provides a summary of the dates and times of the meetings.

Table 1-1: Public Scoping Meetings in 2023

Meeting Format	Meeting Date	Meeting Time*	Number of Public Attendees
In person (Klamath Falls, OR)	June 26, 2023	4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	17
In person (Ashland, OR)	June 28, 2023	4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	45
In person (Medford, OR)	June 29, 2023	4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	28
Virtual	July 10, 2023	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	38

*All meetings were held in Pacific Time.

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2.5. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations address the mandate that federal agencies responsible for preparing NEPA analyses and documentation do so "in cooperation with state and local governments" and other agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise (42 U.S.C. §§ 4331(a), 4332(2)). The benefits of enhanced cooperating agency participation in the preparation of NEPA analyses include disclosing relevant information early in the analytical process, applying available technical expertise and staff support, avoiding duplication with other federal, state, Tribal and local procedures and establishing a mechanism for addressing intergovernmental issues. Other benefits include fostering intra- and intergovernmental trust (e.g., partnerships at the community level) and a common understanding and appreciation for various governmental roles in the NEPA process.

What is a cooperating agency?

A cooperating agency is an eligible governmental entity (local, state, tribal, or federal agency with related expertise or legal jurisdiction) that has entered into a written agreement with the BLM to provide input and expertise for the planning and environmental analysis processes.

Beginning in April 2023, the BLM began to identify federal, state, Tribal, and local government agencies that have jurisdiction by law and special expertise with respect to significant environmental, social, or economic impacts associated with the plan revision. Following the Desk Guide to Cooperating Agency Relationships and Coordination with Intergovernmental Partners, the BLM began to engage officials and staff of these other agencies to share skills and resources to help shape the BLM land use plans and environmental analyses to better reflect the policies, needs, and conditions of their jurisdictions and the citizens they represent.

There are fifteen federal agencies, nine state agencies (four in the State of Oregon and five in the State of California), five local governments (four in the State of Oregon and one in the State of California) and nine Native American Tribes that were invited to participate as a cooperating agency for the RMP. Table 1-2 lists each agency and/or entity invited to participate as a cooperating agency.

Table 1-2: Invited Cooperating Agencies

Agency/Entity	Type
National Park Service	Gov - Federal
U.S. Forest Service	Gov - Federal
Environmental Protection Agency**	Gov - Federal
United States Geological Survey	Gov - Federal
Bureau of Reclamation*	Gov - Federal
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*	Gov - Federal
NOAA Fisheries**	Gov - Federal

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Bureau of Indian Affairs*	Gov - Federal
National Historic Trails Council (NHTC)	Gov - Federal
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Gov - State
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire)	Gov - State
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Gov - State
Oregon Department of Forestry	Gov - State
Oregon Department of Transportation	Gov - State
Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department*	Gov - State
California Department of Parks and Recreation	Gov - State
California Department of Transportation	Gov - State
Klamath County Commissioners	Gov - Local
Jackson County Board of Commissioners	Gov - Local
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors	Gov - Local
City of Ashland	Gov - Local
City of Klamath Falls	Gov - Local
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon	Tribes
Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon*	Tribes
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	Tribes
Karuk Tribe	Tribes
The Klamath Tribes	Tribes
Quartz Valley Indian Reservation*	Tribes
Yurok Tribe	Tribes
Modoc Nation*	Tribes
Hoop Valley Tribe	Tribes
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Gov - State
California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Gov - State
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)	Gov - Federal

*Signed MOUs. **Pending signed Letters.

Cooperating Agency Meetings - June 22, 2023

The RMP team held a virtual meeting for agencies' that were invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency on June 22, 2023. The meeting reviewed the RMP process and schedule, provided an overview of issues being considering in the planning process, and reviewed the process of establishing a MOU that defines and explains expectations and time commitments for Cooperating Agencies.

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Tribal Consultation

The BLM honors its legally affirmed Nation-to-Nation relationship with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Nations, protects and supports Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, and strives to uphold this unique trust responsibility with Tribes. In January of 2023, the BLM developed a Tribal Outreach Strategy for the CSNM RMP. The strategy goals included ensuring Tribes are included in fundamental steps of the RMP process, input from Tribes is sought through individual outreach, public comment, and Tribal consultation, as requested or necessary, and Tribal input, including Indigenous Knowledge, is incorporated into the plan and opportunities for collaboration with Tribes are prioritized.

What is Tribal Consultation?

The BLM Manual 1780 *Tribal Relations* defines Tribal Consultation as consultation between BLM officials with decision making authority and elected Tribal officials or those Tribal representatives specifically delegated by elected Tribal officials to engage in such consultation and decision-making.

There are nine (9) federally recognized Native American Tribes and two (2) non-federally recognized Tribes (*) with ancestral or ceded lands in or adjacent to the CSNM.

- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Karuk Tribe
- The Klamath Tribes
- Modoc Nation
- The Modoc Nation*
- Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
- Yurok Tribe
- Shasta Indian Nation*

The BLM OR/WA and the CA State Directors initiated government-to-government consultation with the Tribes regarding the future management of the CSNM on September 14, 2022. The State Director's sent certified letters to both federally recognized and non-federally recognized Tribes making them aware that the BLM is in the initial stages of revising the CSNM RMP, reaching out to Tribal governments and communities in Oregon and California with long-standing interests in the CSNM, and to convey the BLM's commitment to providing meaningful opportunities to participate in the land use planning process.

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In 2022, the BLM completed a pre-scoping Situation Assessment for the CSNM RMP. The goal of the situation assessment was to capture an accurate cross-section of interests and representative members of the community. Representatives from two Tribes participated in the situation assessment interviews.

On April 20, 2023, the BLM OR/WA and the CA State Directors sent signed letters to each Tribal government inviting them to participate as a cooperating agency.

As of September 2023, three Tribes had signed cooperating agency MOUs, and formal declinations were received from two Tribes. Four Tribes have not responded regarding their interest in participating in the planning process as a cooperator, as of September 20, 2023.

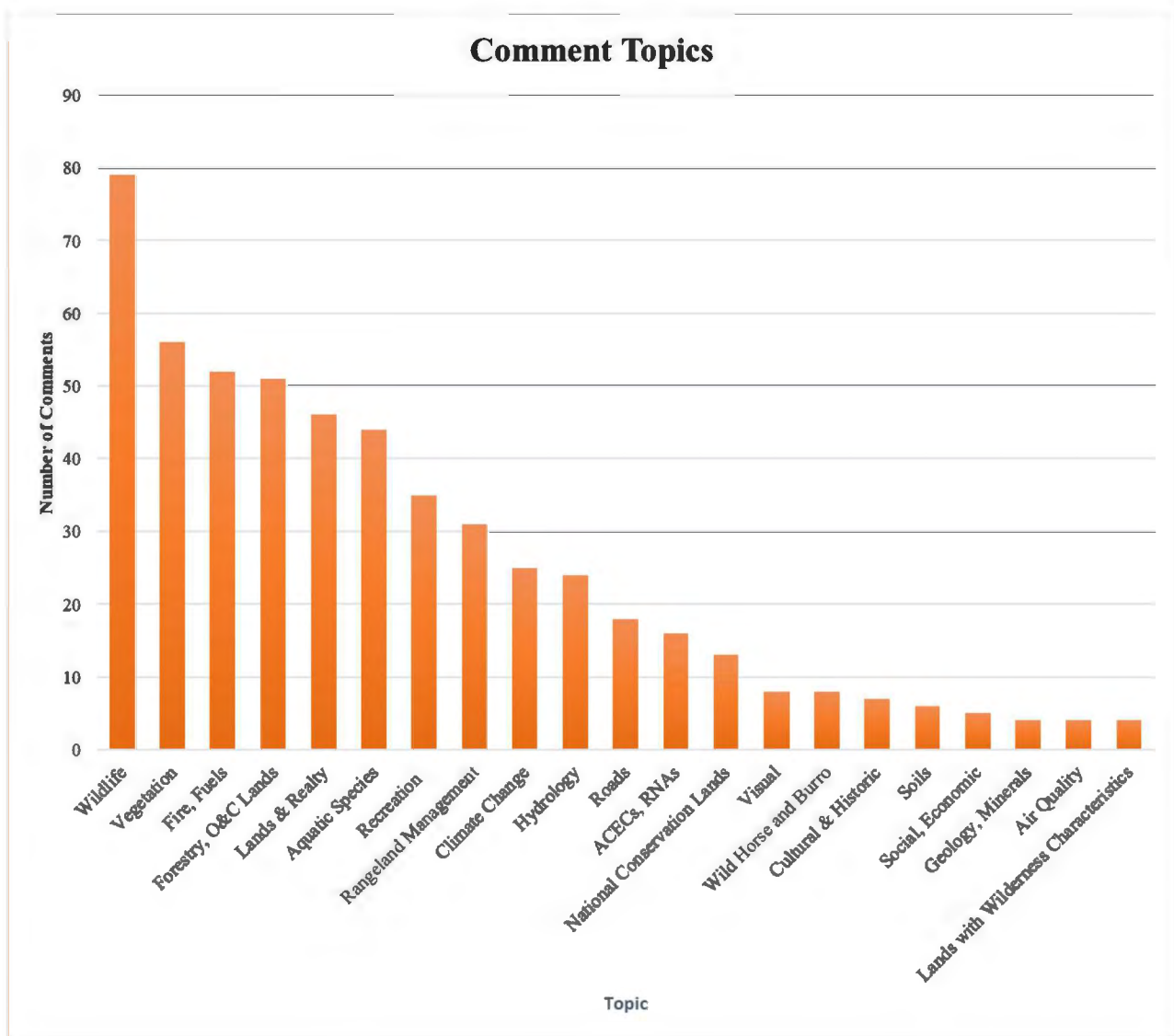
The BLM has been conducting traditional Nation-to-Nation consultation and integrating Staff-to-Staff outreach methods such as emails, virtual meetings, and phone calls since the planning effort was initiated. Outreach detailing, soliciting, and encouraging Tribal participation as cooperating agencies for the planning effort have been ongoing since May 1, 2023, and this strategy will continue with the four Tribes that have not yet formally declined or accepted the invitation to participate as a cooperator. Formal Nation-to-Nation Consultation with all federally recognized Tribes will resume as certain project milestones are reached, such as anticipated publication of the Draft RMP/EIS. Likewise, members of non-federally recognized Tribes will have an opportunity to review and comment individually once the Draft RMP/EIS has been published.

Chapter 3. Comment Summary

3.1. COMMENT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The BLM had a 60-day scoping comment period from June 9, 2023 to August 8, 2023. As of September 2023, the BLM has received 198 letters via email, mailed in letters, and the online ePlanning tool. Of these, 189 were unique comments, meaning there were duplication in letters received.

Comment topics included in letters were categorized, as outlined below. Many letters addressed more than one topic. Comments are collected in tiered sub-headings. There is no ranking of findings, rather a summary of issues and concerns.



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3.2. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cultural and Historic

Multiple comments (1.5%) were received directing the BLM to conduct thorough and appropriate consultation with tribes in the RMP planning process and to include Traditional Ecological or Indigenous Knowledge insights.

One commenter identified the Oregon Extension campus as a historic part of the community that could be at risk for wildfires.

Geology and Minerals

Comments (0.8%) were received that requested individual collection of rocks and minerals should be considered in the RMP and that language from the Redding RMP be considered to allow non-commercial collection of rocks.

One commenter indicated that use of quarries in the CSNM should be discontinued while other commentors requested that quarries remain in use to support BLM administrative needs.

Aquatic species

Multiple commentors (8.4%) indicated that areas with endemic fish populations and protecting biodiversity of aquatic species should be a high priority for protection in the RMP.

Hydrology

Multiple commentors (4.6%) identified old growth stands as important to improving area hydrology. Commentors also requested the BLM look into reclaiming diverted water to restore riparian ecosystems and enhance climate change resilience. Multiple commentors indicated that the RMP should evaluate, protect, and encourage clean water. Recommendations included use of water quality and quantity monitoring results. Water sources, namely Tub Springs and Beaver Creek were mentioned for evaluation of water flow and supply.

Soils

Multiple commentors (1.2%) identified old growth stands as important to building soil quality. Commentors indicated that research and monitoring should include soil health, as healthy soil is linked to mitigating climate change effects and increases biodiversity.

Vegetation

Vegetation topics made up 10.7% of comments received. Multiple commentors identified old growth stands as a priority for protection and restoration and a desire to create and protect early seral tree stands.

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Active management was indicated as a means toward keeping native biota, and many commentors indicated that natural habitats should be protected and restored.

Invasive and noxious weeds were identified by multiple commentors as a concern affecting native species and that plant protection and the protection of vegetative biodiversity should be a top priority in the RMP.

Wildlife

Wildlife topics made 14.4% of comments received. Multiple commentors indicated a desire for wildlife biodiversity protection. Multiple commentors cited the Monument as created to protect biodiversity and indicated that protection of biodiversity should be the greatest priority. Comments included recommendations to prioritize the protection of unfragmented habitats, restoration of habitats, advised support and further development of wildlife crossings, proposed actions to respond to species extinction threats, management focus on native species, and protection and reintroduction of beavers.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Areas

The NOI stated, “As part of this RMP process, the BLM will analyze areas for potential designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.7–2. Public nominations for potential ACECs to be considered in these revisions must be made by August 8, 2023.”

Four external ACEC nominations were identified in the public scoping comments. Some public comments did not include maps or clear delineations of the nominated area. Some public comments did not include detailed descriptions of the nominated values, or indications of how they may meet ACEC criteria. The BLM received several public nominations for potential ACECs as follows:

- Mariposa Reserve Wildlife Crossing - Habitat connectivity for large ungulate species such as elk, black-tailed deer, black bear, cougar, Pacific fisher, American marten, mountain quail, ringtail.
- Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas - Large areas that represent and connect the highest-value habitat for facilitating species movement.
- Buck Prairie - Meadow complexes.
- Cottonwood Glades - Meadow complexes.

The BLM received public comments that identified the Grizzly Peak area as a potential ACEC, but no values were identified for the BLM to evaluate. Another commenter recommended that priority wildlife connectivity areas be considered as potential ACECs; however, specific areas were not identified for the BLM to evaluate. The BLM also received more general comments in support of keeping existing ACECs and Research Natural Areas (RNAs), designating new ACECs, and providing suggestions for management direction for ACECs.

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In contrast, the BLM also received comments recommending no new ACECs or RNAs be designated and that no existing ACECs or RNAs be expanded that cross existing rights-of-way or access to rights-of-way.

Fire and Fuels

Fire and Fuels topics made up 9.8% of comments received.

Multiple commentors identified issues and concerns related to fire and fuels. Multiple commentors indicated that fire risk needs to be decreased throughout the Monument.

Comments related to proposed projects included using prescribed burns and thinning, decreasing roadside fuels, creating buffers around private residences with property owner input, prioritization of thinning around private residences, allowing landowners a margin to do thinning on monument land. Tyler Creek was identified as an area of concern for wildfire.

Commentors expressed concern that the BLM does not abide by same thinning standards that residents are required to follow.

Multiple commentors indicated concern with fuel treatment approaches. Commentors advised that thinning be completed according to scientific rationale, that aggressive fuel management poses risks to biodiversity, and mechanical treatments for fire risk reduction should not be used in the Monument.

Forestry

Forestry topics made up 10.2% of comments received.

Multiple commentors indicated that commercial logging should not be allowed in the Monument stating concerns it will decrease biodiversity and adversely affect Monument objects and values. Commentors referenced that mineral and timber extraction should not be the focus of the RMP and indicated that extractive activities contradict the purpose of the Monument.

Multiple commentors indicated that logging should be allowed if it will help with fuel reduction efforts and that active management is needed. Some commentors referenced the natural fire regime as being disturbed and that active management is needed to manage the forest effectively.

Air Quality

Multiple commentors (0.8%) indicated that the RMP should evaluate, protect, and encourage clean air.

Social and Economic and Resource Uses

Multiple commentors (1.0%) indicated that short-term economic gains should not be prioritized over long-term health of the area.

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Comments citing concern over wealth inequality were received and requested that the BLM consider an alternative that corrects socio-economic trends of increasing housing costs and displacement of the local middle and lower classes within western communities.

Roads

Road topics made up 3.5% of comments received.

Multiple commentors indicated concerns that (new and some existing) roads in the Monument would fragment habitats and that unused roads should be closed. Some commentors identified decommissioned roads as opportunities to convert to trails. Multiple commentors indicated that decommissioned roads should be kept open to maintain fire response access. Comments were received citing drainage and sedimentation issues resulting from a lack of road maintenance.

Commentors indicated interest in establishing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations along Highway 66.

Lands and Realty

Lands and realty topics made up 8.8% of comments received.

Multiple commentors indicated concerns regarding safety and emergency communications in the Monument, the need for reliable internet to nearby schools, and the need to increase cellular coverage in the area. Commentors indicated that the need for emergency services will increase as fire risk and other natural disasters increase.

Comments related specifically to the Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon (ESCO) tower at Soda Mountain cited concerns stated in the paragraph above, and that the proposal for the ESCO tower footprint would be smaller by decreasing the number of buildings and decrease the visual disturbance. Commentors indicated that there is no viable alternative to the Soda Mt location and that the current ESCO tower is outdated and insufficient for the community's needs. Commentors indicated concern that available funding would not be available in the future.

Multiple commentors indicated that land acquisition within the monument should be prioritized to promote biodiversity and wildlife connectivity as well as a request to evaluate lease terms for homes within the CSNM.

Rangeland Management

Rangeland Management related topics made up 6.5% of comments received.

Multiple commentors identified cattle and horse grazing as destructive to Monument objects and a threat to the protection of natural resources. Commentors stated concerns that grazing isn't monitored or enforced to keep cattle and/or horses in allowed use areas.

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Multiple commentors indicated that grazing should not be allowed or should be severely limited, with some commentors citing grazing as exacerbating climate change.

Multiple commentors indicated that livestock grazing helps reduce fuels and that responsible use should be allowed, with some commentors indicating that grazing should be considered on case-by-case basis and that compatibility with other resources and activities should be considered. Some commentors indicated that regenerative agriculture and its benefits should be researched and considered in the RMP.

Recreation

Recreation related topics made up 6.7% of comments received.

Multiple commentors identified recreation as an activity for consideration in the RMP. Comments indicated a desire to maintain access for various recreation types, and to protect and promote existing recreation opportunities.

Multiple commentors identified the Shale City Disc Golf course as a recreation opportunity that should be considered for improvement. Improvement requests included adding real baskets, tee pads, and restrooms. Commentors indicated that the Disc Golf course would provide positive impacts for the local economy, provide the opportunity to get people outside, that the activity is growing in popularity, and that improvements would be low-cost.

Multiple commentors requested an increase in mountain bike trails, particularly those that would be near the Medford area. Commentors indicated that decommissioned roads could be utilized for bike trails.

Multiple commentors indicated that off-highway vehicle (OHV) use should not be allowed in the Monument while others requested the BLM consider providing more OHV use opportunities. Considerations for people with disabilities, particularly ambulatory disabilities, was requested as a means to provide equitable access to public lands and recreation opportunities.

Multiple commentors indicated a desire for an increase in camping opportunities, managed campgrounds and dispersed camping.

Comments were received requesting more hiking and equestrian/horseback trails within the CSNM.

Comments were received citing a desire for primitive and solitude recreational experiences including stock use, hiking, scenic viewing, hunting and cross-country riding.

Multiple commentors indicated that recreation is not a monument object or value and should only be allowed where it doesn't negatively impact monument's objects and values, and that recreation should not be encouraged on the Monument.

CSNM RMP SCOPING REPORT

National Conservation Lands

National Conservation Land related topics made up 2.5% of comments received.

Multiple commentors identified concerns related stock use in wilderness areas including requesting that current 'stock-use' guidelines should not be made to be more restrictive in wilderness areas, and that allowable heartbeats should be increased in wilderness areas.

Comments identified the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail as an important value and recommended that the trail outside of Wilderness be upgraded to a Class 1 trail.

Multiple commentors identified interest in using pre-existing trails for non-vehicular use in wilderness areas.

Comments were received recommending that no Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) be considered that are adjacent to existing powerline right-of-way or are crossed by powerline access roads or routes, including spur roads as it would inhibit wildfire mitigation work and would be inconsistent with the stated purpose of the RMP to reduce wildfire risk.

Visuals

Visual resources related topics made up 1.5% of comments received.

Multiple commentors indicated a desire to minimize human impacts to protect the monuments scenic and aesthetic resources/objects.

Some commentors indicated that the Soda Mountain Wilderness should remain Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I, and that as much of the existing monument lands as possible should be upgraded from VRM Class II to VRM Class I.

Climate Change

Climate change related topics made up 4.8% of comments received.

Multiple commentors indicated that the RMP and proposed actions should encourage combatting climate change or address climate resilience. A proposed activity provided by commentors was the protection of mature trees to sequester carbon.

Many commentors identified climate change as a risk to forests and the monument citing higher intensity and frequency of fires, larger wind events, temperatures getting hotter, climate getting drier, and forests were more susceptible to beetle infestations.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Lands with Wilderness characteristics related topics made up 0.8% of comments received.

CSNM RMP SCOPING REPORT

Multiple commentors indicated that additional lands within the Monument should be managed as potential wilderness.

Commentors identified additional areas that should be considered for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics:

- Grizzly Peak
- Green Springs Mountain Wild Area
- Porcupine Mountain
- Green Mountain
- Lincoln Creek area
- Sampson Creek Preserve

Wild Horse and Burro Act

Wild Horse and Burro management related topics made up 1.5% of comments received.

Multiple commentors stated concerns related to wild horses in the Pokegama Herd Management Area (HMA) and feral horses throughout the CSNM indicating a need to improve management and identified concerns regarding the impact to biodiversity and clean water.

Multiple commentors identified concerns related to data on wild (feral) horse populations and wild horse grazing as a wildfire mitigation strategy.

Management

Multiple commentors identified a need for increased funding, specifically citing that more staffing and funding is needed for BLM to accomplish what is needed to protect and manage the Monument. Commentors noted that the BLM needs to have a dedicated Monument Manager and a team of dedicated staff, including a number of ecologically qualified staff to conduct monitoring. Commentors noted increased visitation and use and a desire for a more visible presence of BLM rangers, as well as a desire to see more fuels reduction and restoration projects implemented in the CSNM.

Planning Criteria

The NOI stated, “BLM has also identified preliminary planning criteria to guide the development of the RMP. These criteria may be modified or other criteria identified after the public scoping process. The public has been invited to comment on the following preliminary planning criteria:”

Multiple commentors indicated that planning should be based on best-available science and use of the most up to date information related to the CSNM's ecological systems, processes, and biodiversity. Comments indicated that proposed RMP decisions should be specific and measurable to advance protection and restoration of natural resources and ecological systems.

CSNM RMP SCOPING REPORT

Public Education and Outreach

Comments were received indicating a desire for more public education regarding the CSNM and monument objects as well as outreach and informational signage for recreation opportunities within the CSNM. Multiple commentors requested informational signs at trailheads and Campgrounds explaining the monument purpose and appropriate areas for recreation. Recommendations included supplying information for users at strategically placed interpretive signs, brochures, as well as educational and hands-on stewardship events.

Comments regarding outreach for RMP be meaningful and transparent. Requests were made for the BLM to provide mailed notifications to be sent to property owners within the CSNM. Commentors requested documentation of RMP implementation be transparent and accessible to the public.

3.3. ISSUES NOT ADDRESSED

Multiple comments were received requesting the BLM approve a proposal for the Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon tower at Soda Mountain. The request is considered a current management (implementation-level) decision and is not substantive to the CSNM/EIS RMP process. Certainly, when developing a RMP and considering comments about increased communication through a communication tower, it's important to take note of these comments and address them appropriately. While these comments may not be considered substantive during the public scoping period, they will still be recorded and kept in the plan's documentation for future reference.

The BLM will outline a process for ongoing communication and collaboration with the public to address these challenges and opportunities. This includes a mechanism for relaying public comments and concerns to relevant district and field organizations to manage at the implementation level.

Chapter 4. Next Steps and Public Involvement Opportunities

4.1. PLANNING PROCESS

The next step is for the BLM to prepare draft management alternatives based on issues identified through internal and external scoping, including nominations for potential designations of ACECs for the CSNM. The management alternatives will explore various planning decisions, including objectives and management direction, allocations for allowable resource uses, and administrative designations.

Objectives are specific and measurable desired outcomes developed for the resource and resource use conditions. Management direction identifies how and where future actions may or may not be allowed and what restrictions or requirements may be placed on those future actions to achieve attainment of desired outcomes (objectives).

The BLM uses allocations to describe whether specific uses of the public lands (such as livestock grazing) are allowed, restricted, or prohibited. Within this planning area, several types of uses have already been decided on by Presidential Proclamations 7318 and 9564, such as lands are unavailable for sustained-yield timber harvest, closed to mineral leasing, and must be retained and only made available for exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument. The BLM will reflect these decisions in the allocation for allowable use. In some cases, the BLM must still decide in the RMP whether a use is allowed, restricted, or prohibited.

The BLM is considering establishing several potential administrative designations through this land use planning process including areas of critical environmental concern, research natural areas, extensive recreation management areas, and national scenic and historic trail corridors.

The BLM will also meet with Tribal governments, cooperating agencies, and other federal, state, and local governments to obtain relevant data and ensure the BLM considers pertinent provisions of non-BLM plans in the draft alternatives.

4.2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM will continue to offer public involvement opportunities throughout the CSNM RMP revision planning process. The ePlanning project website is regularly updated with project information, documents, and announcements and can be accessed at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2023675/510>. The BLM will maintain a mailing list of individuals, agencies, and organizations throughout the planning effort. Interested individuals and organizations can request to be added to the mailing list at any time. Please reach out to the BLM using the contact information below.

CSNM RMP SCOPING REPORT

The next public involvement opportunity will be a 90-day public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which the BLM anticipates publishing in early 2024. The BLM will provide notification of the publication via a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, posting a notice on the project's website, and notifying those individuals or groups on the RMP mailing list. The BLM will solicit feedback on the range of alternatives, including the analysis of their effects, and the preferred alternative. Additionally, the BLM may solicit feedback on any proposal to designate potential areas of critical environmental concern, national scenic and historic trail corridors, and other administrative designations.



Figure 1- CSNM RMP EIS Schedule

Appendix A. Scoping Materials

1. Scoping Notices
 - a. Press Release
 - b. Newspaper Ad
 - c. Flier
 - d. Email
 - e. Social Media
 - f. Cooperating Agency Invite Letter
2. Outreach Materials
 - a. CSNM RMP One-Page Overview
 - b. Public Meeting Display Boards

Scoping Notices



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

News Release

Oregon/Washington

Medford District

Media Contact: Kyle Sullivan, 541-618-2340

June 9, 2023

Bureau of Land Management seeks comment on Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Management Plan

Medford, Ore. —The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public input to inform a new land use plan for the [Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument](#). The plan update would protect important biological, historic, and public resources, including the objects of scientific and historic interest identified in [Presidential Proclamation 7318](#) and [Presidential Proclamation 9564, which established and expanded the monument](#).

The new plan will support resilient landscapes in order to enhance resistance to large-scale disturbances and reduce fire risk to important monument objects and nearby communities. The Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* on June 9 and is available here: federalregister.gov/d/2023-12311

“This new resource management planning process provides an opportunity to learn from our past planning efforts and ensure the 113,500 acres of public lands in the monument receive the proper protections,” said **BLM Oregon/Washington State Director Barry Bushue**. “The Presidential Proclamations provide a framework for managing the monument, and the public can help us determine the best way to implement them. Input at this stage will help inform the issues considered during the planning process and the decisions made in the final resource management plan.”

The comment period will provide the public with an important opportunity to help with the resource management planning process. The BLM welcomes public input to identify critical management concerns, which can help determine the scope of the environmental review, including issues for analysis and alternatives development. Future public meetings will also provide the public with an opportunity to speak with resource specialists and to submit written comments.

There will be three in person and one virtual scoping meetings. Members of the public will have an opportunity to meet with specialists to learn more about the planning effort. The dates and cities of the meetings are:

- June 26, 2023 4-7 p.m. PT. Klamath Community College, Building 4, Commons. 7390 S. 6th St, Klamath Falls, OR 97603

- June 28, 2023 4-7 p.m. Pinehurst School, 15337 Hwy 66, Ashland, OR 97520
- June 29, 2023 4-7 p.m. Abraham Lincoln Elementary School Cafeteria, 3101 McLoughlin Dr, Medford, OR 97504
- July 10, 2023 6-7 p.m. Virtual Meeting. Register at:
https://blm.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltc-mopzliGZMgiNwtsnzbi4gZ99P_rtw

Written comments may also be submitted through the following methods:

- Website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2023675/510>
- Mail: ATTN: Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Planning, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504

The public can submit written comments concerning the scope of the analysis, potential alternatives, identification of relevant information and studies, and nomination of areas of critical environmental concern. Comments must be received by August 8 or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later.

For more information or questions, contact the CSNM RMP Team at (458) 246-8861 or blm_csnm_rmp@blm.gov.

-BLM-

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan Oregon/Washington and California Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Meetings

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public input to inform a new land use plan for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM). A Resource Management Plan is being developed to protect and or restore the unique and varied natural and scientific resources in the Monument, including the objects of scientific and historic interest identified in Presidential Proclamations 7318 and 8564.

The BLM will hold three in-person open houses and one virtual public meeting. Your input will be used to identify resource management concerns, which can help determine the scope of the environmental analysis.

You are invited to attend the meetings to learn more about the project, speak with resource specialists, and to submit written comments.

Written comments must be submitted during the comment period starting June 9, 2023. Comments must be received by August 8, 2023.

JUNE 26, 2023

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Pacific Time (PT)

Come at any time.

Klamath Community College
Building 4, Commons

7390 S. 6th Street, Klamath Falls,
OR 97603

JUNE 29, 2023

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (PT)

Come at any time.

Abraham Lincoln Elementary
School

3101 McLoughlin Dr, Medford, OR
97504

JUNE 28, 2023

Open House

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (PT)

Come at any time.

Pinehurst School

15337 Hwy. 66

Ashland, OR 97520

JULY 10, 2023

Virtual Meeting

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (PT) Brief presentation followed by question and answer.

Register for zoom meeting at: http://bit.ly/CSNM_ScopingMeeting

Written comments may also be submitted through the following methods:

- Website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2023675/510>
- Mail: ATTN: Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Planning, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504

**For more information or questions, contact the CSNM RMP Team
at: Email: blm_csnm_rmp@blm.gov**

Phone: (458) 246-8861



Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan

Notice of Public Comment Period

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public input to inform a new land use plan for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM). The resource management plan is being developed to encompass all lands in the Monument under one plan to provide cohesive, long-range management objectives and direction.

The BLM will hold four public meetings, three in-person open houses and one virtual, to gather input on resource management concerns, which can help determine the scope of the environmental review.

The public is invited to attend the meetings to learn more about the project, speak with resource specialists and to submit written comments.

Written comments must be submitted during the **comment period starting June 9, 2023. Comments must be received by August 8, 2023.**

Written comments may also be submitted through the following methods:

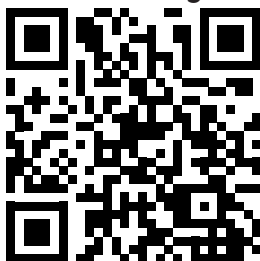
Website:

www.bit.ly/CSNMScopingComment

Mail:

ATTN: Cascade-Siskiyou
National Monument Planning
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504

BLM ePlanning Site



Scan QR Code with
your Smart Phone



Public Meetings

- > JUNE 26, 2023**
4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (PT) Come any time.
Klamath Community College,
Building 4, Commons
7390 S. 6th Street
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
- > JUNE 28, 2023**
4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (PT) Come any time.
Pinehurst School
15337 Hwy. 66
Ashland, OR 97520
- > JUNE 29, 2023**
4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (PT) Come any time.
Abraham Lincoln Elementary School,
Cafeteria
3101 McLoughlin Dr.
Medford, OR 97504
- > JULY 10, 2023**
Virtual Meeting - Zoom
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (PT)
Brief presentation at 6:00 p.m.,
followed by question and answer.
Register here:
www.bit.ly/CSNM_ScopingMeeting

For more information or questions, contact the CSNM RMP Team:



Email: blm_csnm_rmp@blm.gov



Phone: (458) 246-8861

Dianne Olson

From: BLM_CSNM_RMP <blm_csnm_rmp@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 7:41 PM
To: Haskett, Nikki M
Cc: BLM_CSNM_RMP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Monument Plan – Public Meetings and Comment Period
Attachments: 2023-06-09_BLM_CSNM_Flier_FINAL.pdf

External Email - This Message originated from outside J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc.



**The Bureau of Land Management invites you to participate in providing input to
inform a new
Resource Management Plan
for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM).**

Between now and August 8th, 2023, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites public comments from you that provides detailed input on your resource management suggestions and concerns. Your comments will provide input on your resource management suggestions and concerns. The BLM will consider all substantive comments and your input will be used to determine the scope of the environmental review.

There are **four opportunities** to participate in public scoping. Each meeting will include (1) information about the project; (2) the chance to speak with resource specialists; and (3) a place to submit your written comments.

MONDAY, JUNE 26 – Open House in Klamath Falls

Come anytime between 4:00-7:00 p.m. Pacific Time (PT)

[Klamath Community College](#)

Building 4, Commons

7390 S. 6th Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97603

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28 – Open House near Ashland

Come anytime between 4:00-7:00 p.m. (PT)

[Pinehurst School](#)

15337 Hwy. 66

Ashland, OR 97520

THURSDAY, JUNE 29 – Open House in Medford

Come anytime between 4:00-7:00 p.m. (PT)

[Abraham Lincoln Elementary School](#)

3101 McLoughlin Drive

Medford, OR 97504

MONDAY, JULY 10 – Virtual Meeting

6:00-7:00 p.m. (PDT). Brief presentation starting at 6:00 p.m., followed by Q&A.

REGISTER HERE: http://bit.ly/CSNM_ScopingMeeting

You are invited to attend any or all of these opportunities. Not sure what you want to say exactly? That's okay. There will be resource specialists available to answer your questions or provide additional information.

Substantive written comments may also be submitted through the following methods August 8, 2023:

- Website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2023675/510>
- Mail: ATTN: Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Planning, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504

For more information or questions, contact the CSNM RMP Team at:

Email: blm_csnm_rmp@blm.gov

Phone: (458) 246-8861

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The Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the *Federal Register* on June 9th, 2023 and is available [HERE](#).



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

JUNE 26, 2023

4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Pacific Time (PT)
Klamath Community College
Building 4, Commons
7390 S. 6th Street
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

JUNE 28, 2023

4:00 - 7:00 p.m. PT
Pinehurst School
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3101 McLoughlin Dr.
Medford, OR 97504

JULY 10, 2023

Virtual Meeting - Zoom
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. PT

Register here: www.bit.ly/CSNM_ScopingMeeting



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1623
Sacramento, California 95825

blm.gov/or



Dear Interested Cooperator:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) State Office and California (CA) State Office are revising the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) Resource Management Plan (RMP) to provide a cohesive, long-term management plan. The BLM is preparing an environmental impact statement to accompany the RMP. We are inviting you to become a cooperator in the planning process. We are currently in the pre-planning phase of the plan and anticipate a publication of a Notice of Intent in the Spring of 2023.

Project Background: The BLM is developing this RMP to provide direction for managing approximately 113,000 acres of BLM-administered lands. The CSNM was established June 9, 2000, by President Clinton (Presidential Proclamation 7318). On January 12, 2017, President Obama enlarged the boundary of the monument via Presidential Proclamation 9564. The CSNM expansion encompassed an additional 42,000 acres of BLM-administered land, including 5,000 acres in California.¹ The monument is located outside of the communities of Medford and Ashland in southwest Oregon. Acreage included in the monument, with the expansion area, is divided between three different RMP's; two in Oregon, and one in California. The monument as expanded includes lands in two states, three district offices, and three field offices.

The existing RMPs include the 2008 Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Record of Decision (ROD) and RMP (2008 CSNM RMP), the 2016 Southwest Oregon RMP (2016 SWO RMP), and the 1993 Redding RMP, all of which will remain in effect until the BLM approves a new cohesive RMP for the entire monument.

Invitation to Participate as a Cooperating Agency in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process: Applicable regulations provide that state agencies, local governments, Tribal governments, and other Federal agencies may serve as cooperating agencies during the Environmental Impact Statement process if they have either jurisdiction by law or special expertise (40 CFR 1508.5). Cooperating agency status provides the opportunity for us to work

¹ In response to Proclamation 9564, several parties sued the United States, claiming that the Monument expansion violated the Oregon and California Revested Lands Act (O&C Act). In September 2019, the District of Oregon upheld the Monument expansion, and the plaintiff has appealed this decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In November 2019, the District Court for the District of Columbia found the Monument expansion violated the O&C Act by "reserving land governed by the O&C Act from sustained yield timber production" and held Proclamation 9564 "invalid and unenforceable as applied to land subject to the O&C Act." The Government has appealed this decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The BLM is exercising its discretion to initiate preliminary planning steps with the understanding that BLM retains the ability to modify or terminate any planning effort in response to the outcome of the appeals.

together collaboratively and to enhance the BLM's planning efforts. More information about being a cooperating agency can be found here:

https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Services_CADRCooperatingAgencyGuide.pdf

Based on our preliminary evaluation, we believe that your agency meets the cooperating agency criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.5. If you are interested in becoming a cooperating agency please respond to this letter and we will provide more details about this process (e.g., describing the process to establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that defines and explains expectations and time commitments). Please be assured that, whether you elect to become a cooperating agency or not, we will afford your agency ample opportunities to participate in the NEPA process.

If you have questions regarding the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument planning process or require additional information, please contact Project Manager Nikki Haskett at nhaskett@blm.gov or 202-740-0835. The BLM believes that your expertise and perspective is important to the success of the RMP. Thank you for your consideration of this invitation to participate in the NEPA process as a cooperating agency. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Barry R. Bushue
State Director
Oregon/Washington

Karen E. Mouritsen
State Director
California

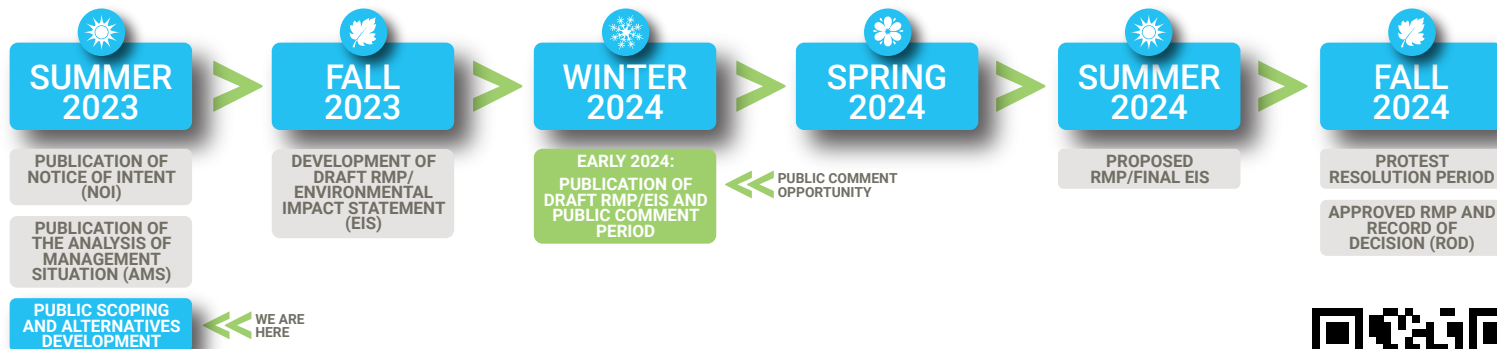
Outreach Materials



Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is revising the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The RMP is being developed to protect and/or restore the unique natural, historic, and scientific resources in the Monument identified in Presidential Proclamations 7318 and 8564.

NEPA/RMP Process



For more information or questions, contact the CSNM RMP Team:

Email: blm_csnm_rmp@blm.gov

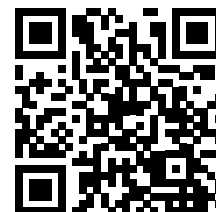
Phone: (458) 246-8861

Web: www.bit.ly/CSNMScopingComment

Mail: Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Planning

3040 Biddle Road

Medford, OR 97504



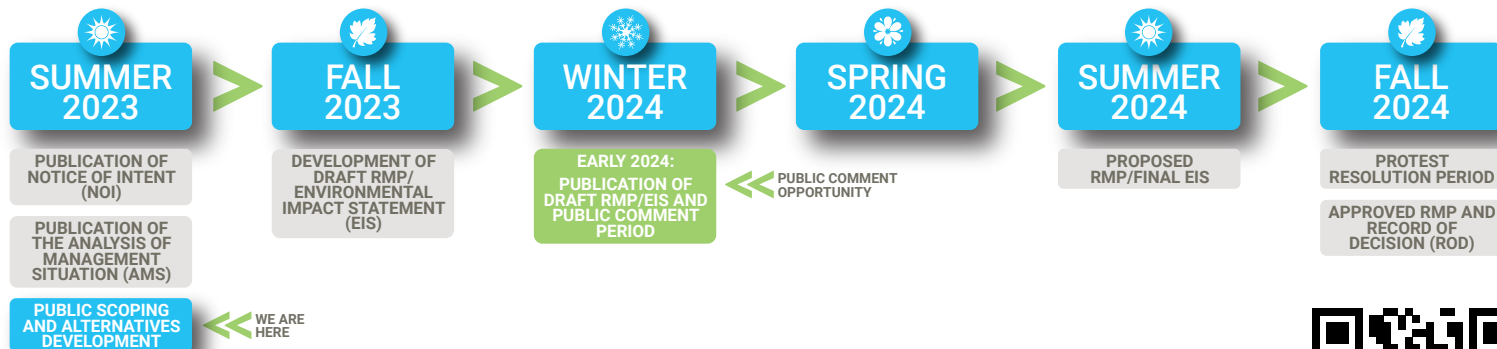
Scan QR Code with
your Smart Phone



Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is revising the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The RMP is being developed to protect and/or restore the unique natural, historic, and scientific resources in the Monument identified in Presidential Proclamations 7318 and 8564.

NEPA/RMP Process



For more information or questions, contact the CSNM RMP Team:

Email: blm_csnm_rmp@blm.gov

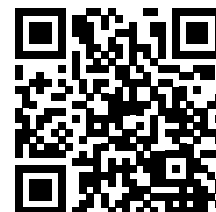
Phone: (458) 246-8861

Web: www.bit.ly/CSNMScopingComment

Mail: Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Planning

3040 Biddle Road

Medford, OR 97504



Scan QR Code with
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**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

WELCOME

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement

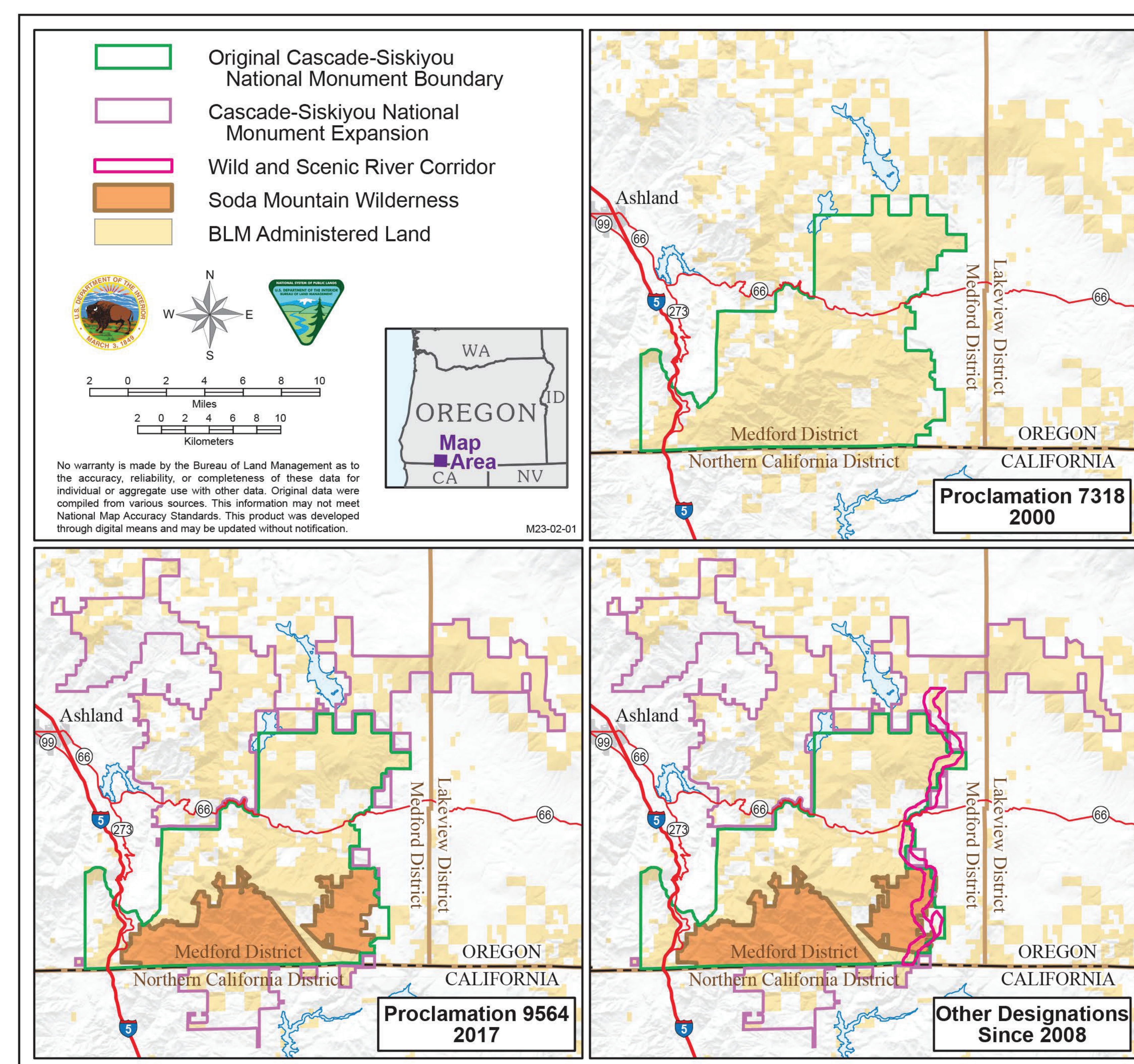
Scoping Meeting



Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan

Background

- » The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) was established in 2000 by Presidential Proclamation 7318 to protect the unique ecosystems and biodiversity of the area.
- » In 2017, Presidential Proclamation 9564 nearly doubled the size of the original CSNM to further protect the CSNM's ecosystems and biodiversity by providing vital habitat connectivity, watershed protection, and landscape-scale resilience.
- » The current boundary now includes approx. 113,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands in the Medford, Lakeview, and Northern California Districts.
- » In October 2022, it was determined that the 2008 CSNM RMP needs to be revised to encompass all CSNM lands under one plan.

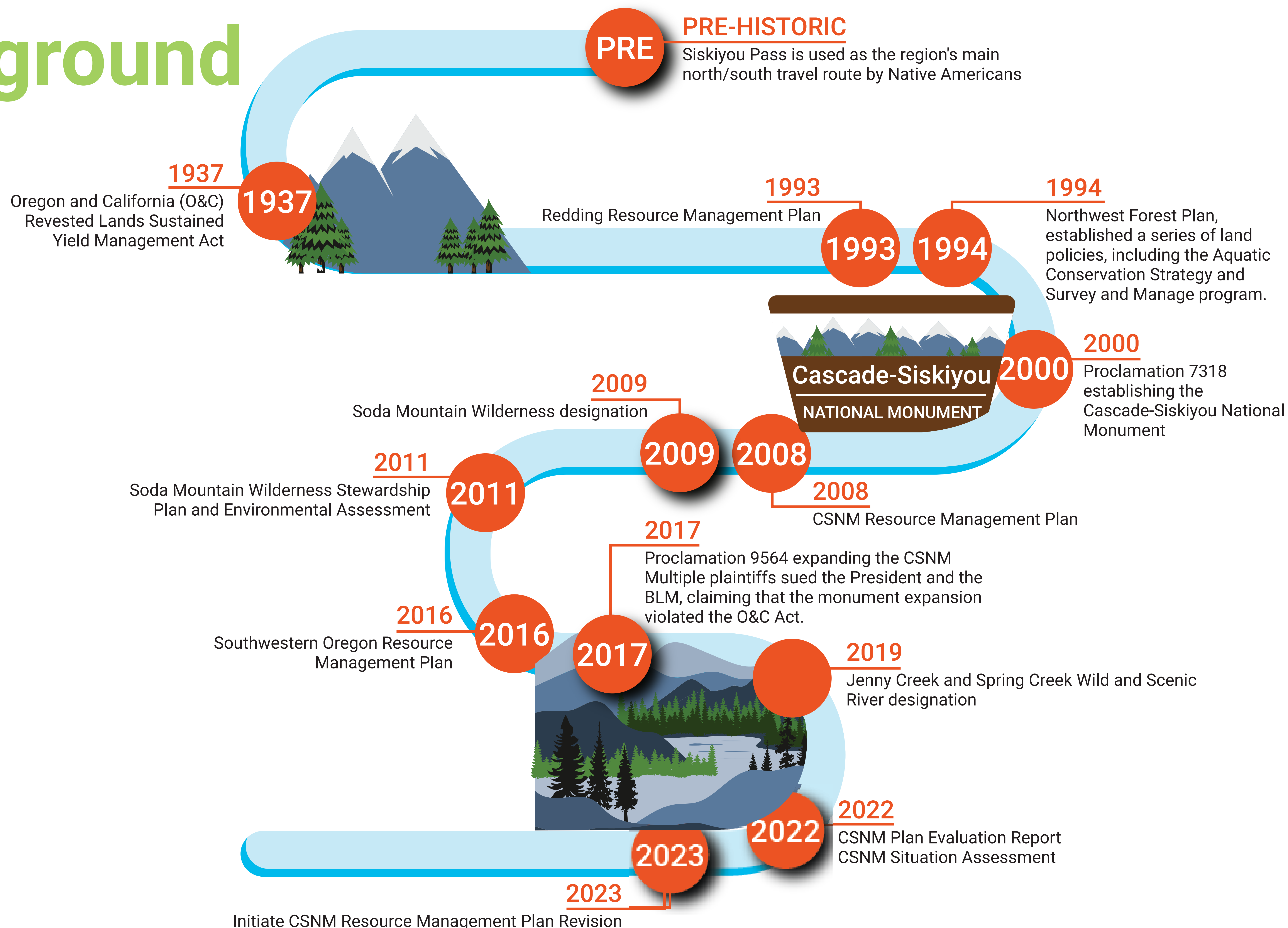


MAP 2-1: Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument- Boundary Changes and Other Designations



Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan

Background





Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan

Current Resource Management Plans

» 1993 Redding RMP

Covers approximately 5,340 acres within the planning area.

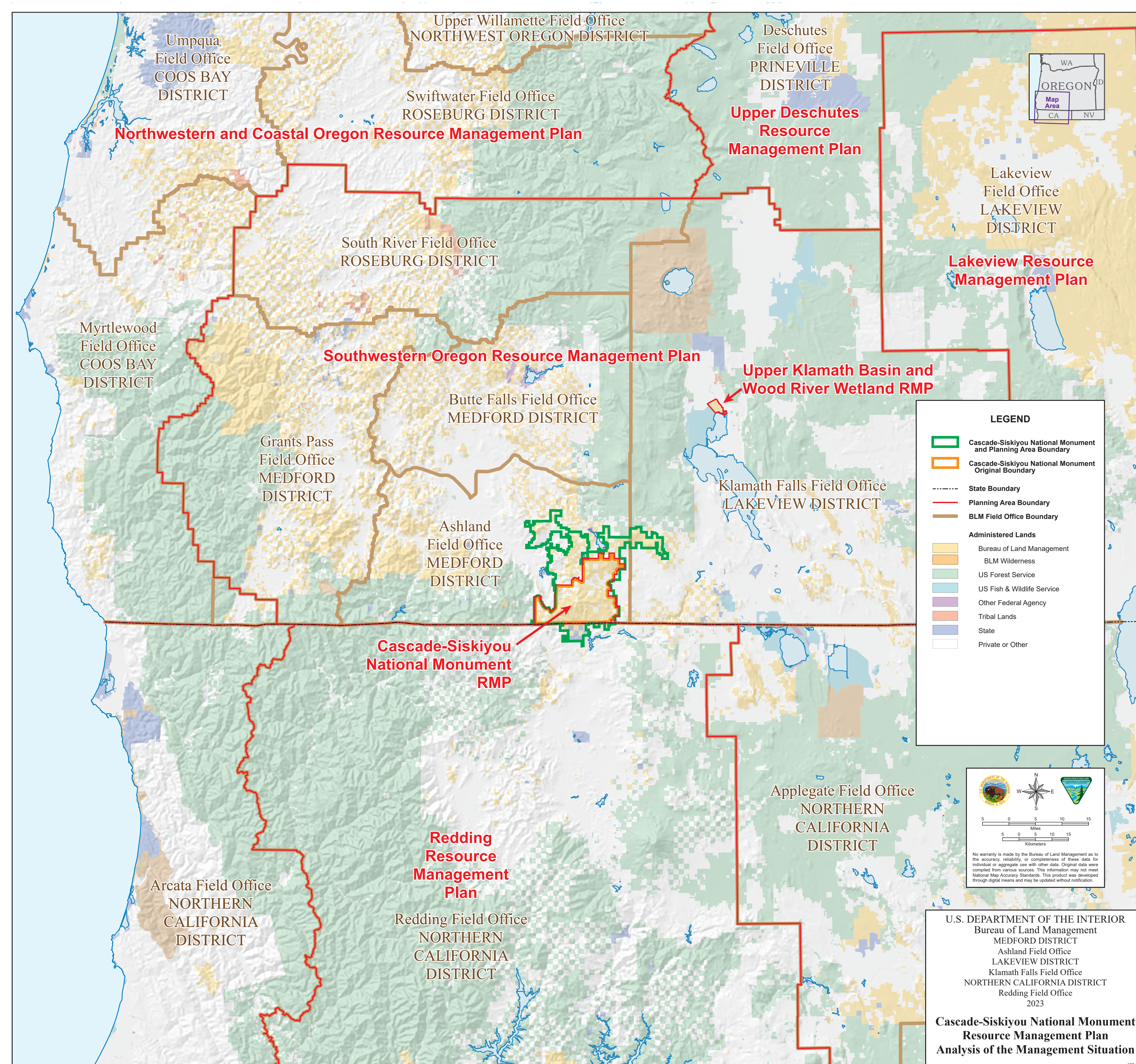
» 2008 Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument RMP

Covers approximately 65,846 acres within the planning area.

» 2016 Southwestern Oregon RMP

Covers approximately 42,320 acres within the planning area.

Approximately 39,852 acres (94 percent) of those lands are Oregon & California lands. The remainder of lands are Public Domain lands.



MAP 1-1: Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument- Plan and Administrative Boundaries



Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan

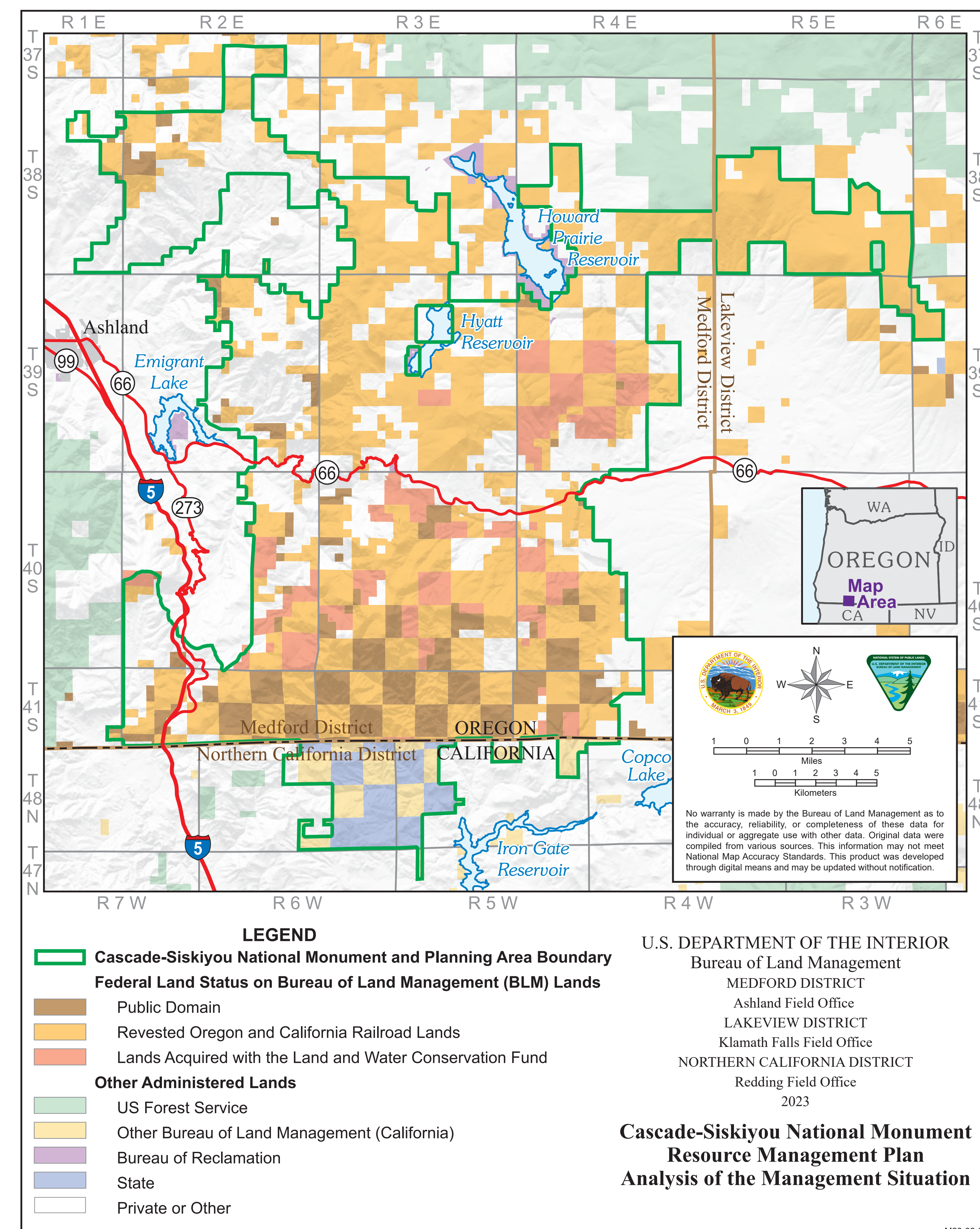
RMP Overview

What is an RMP?

- » An RMP provides overall direction for management of all resources on BLM-administered land comprising the CSNM and defines the natural, cultural, paleontological, geologic, and scenic resources that require consideration and protection.

RMP's have three main purposes:

1. Allocate resources and determine appropriate multiple uses for the public lands;
2. Provide a strategy to manage and protect resources; and
3. Establish systems to monitor and evaluate the health of resources and effectiveness of management practices over time.

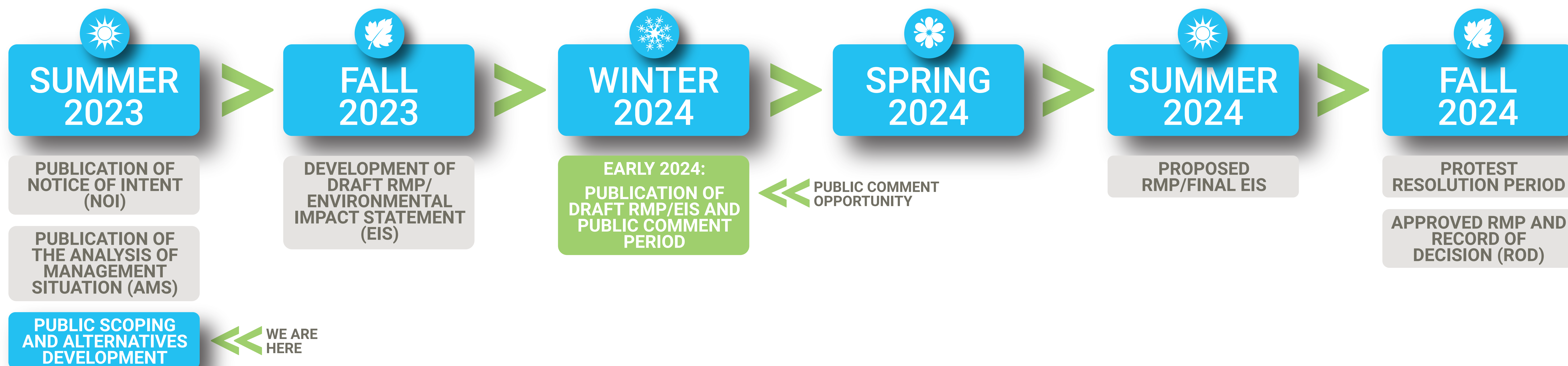


MAP 2-2: Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument- Planning Area



Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan

RMP Process



The BLM is interested in gathering input from the public, Tribal Nations, other federal agencies, and state and local government for consideration in the land use planning effort.

Comments must be received by August 8, 2023.



Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan

Scoping

This RMP will provide a management framework for the CSNM.

Purposes and needs help identify issues, develop alternative management options, and analyze potential effects.

The purposes of this RMP are to:

1. Protect and restore the habitats that support the rare and endemic and special status wildlife and plant species.
2. Protect and restore the connectivity of habitats that allow for animal migration and movement.
3. Protect and restore habitats to be resistant and resilient to disturbance.
4. Reduce fire risk within the wildland urban interface and to CSNM objects and values.
5. Manage discretionary uses to protect CSNM objects and values.



What challenges and opportunities do you see related to the Purpose and Need?



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Scoping

Scoping is an important part of the planning process. Public input during scoping helps identify relevant, substantive issues to be addressed in the RMP.

Input during scoping includes:

- » What issues should be considered and analyzed?
- » How might the BLM plan to analyze issues?*
- » Are there relevant information or studies that could be considered?
- » Are there other areas on BLM-administered lands that should be considered for ACECs nomination?
- » What suggestions (alternatives) do you have that might meet the Purpose and Need for the RMP?

**The BLM's preliminary planning criteria is available for public review and comment in Chapter 5 of the Analysis of The Management Situation June 2023 Report. Some elements of the planning criteria will likely be refined or changed during the planning process as other steps in the process are completed or if new information becomes available.*



Cultural, Historic, Geology and Minerals

Preliminary issues:

- » How would the BLM management actions affect cultural resources?
- » How would land management activities affect sacred sites, sites used for religious purposes, or other places of traditional cultural importance?
- » How would land management activities affect Tribal plant collection, management, and use?
- » How would recreation management actions proposed under each alternative affect the unique geologic and paleontological resources?
- » How would the alternatives affect mineral materials available for BLM administrative use?

What additional information or issues should be considered?





Aquatic Species, Hydrology, and Soils

Preliminary issues:

- » How would ground-disturbing management actions and allowable uses proposed under each alternative affect aquatic and riparian habitats and aquatic species?
- » How would vegetation management actions and allowable uses in the proposed alternatives affect water quantity (peak flows and base flows) and water availability?
- » How would the alternatives affect fragile soil types?
- » How would the alternatives affect soil productivity and health?

What additional information or issues should be considered?





Vegetation and Wildlife

Preliminary issues:

- » How would the alternatives prevent the introduction and spread of invasive, nonnative plants and noxious weeds?
- » How would management activities (fuels reduction treatments, recreation, and grazing) allowable in each alternative affect special status plants, bryophyte, & fungi species?
- » How would the alternatives affect terrestrial wildlife habitat?
- » How would management under the alternatives affect wildlife habitat connectivity?
- » How would the alternatives affect the composition, connectivity, integrity, and resiliency of non-forested vegetation/habitats in the planning area?
- » Science and Research - What issues should be considered?

What additional information or issues should be considered?





Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Areas

» There are seven Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and/or Research Natural Areas (RNAs) within CSNM:

NAME AND ACRES	ACEC - RELEVANT AND IMPORTANT VALUE OR RNA - CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION
Lost Lake RNA ACEC (386 acres)	Natural Processes	Mid-montane lake surrounded by mixed-conifer forest. Volcanic landslide-dammed lake; long-term vegetation monitoring site
Old Baldy RNA ACEC (470 acres)	Natural Processes	Chinquapin/manzanita chaparral and high-elevation white fir-Shasta red fir forest; long-term vegetation monitoring site
Jenny Creek RNA ACEC (269a acres)	Fish and wildlife; Important historical, cultural, or scenic values	Douglas-fir/ponderosa pine forests, Oregon white oak/western juniper woodlands, chaparral, mixed grasslands, rocky cliffs, waterfalls, talus slopes, Jenny Creek riparian woodlands, Jenny Creek Falls
Moon Prairie ACEC (27 acres)	Natural Resources	Multi-layered stand of old growth Douglas-fir and white fir with Pacific yew, ponderosa pine and sugar pine
Tunnel Creek ACEC (79 acres)	Fish and wildlife; Natural Processes	High altitude lodgepole pine fen with bog blueberry (<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>) and high diversity of sedge species; several Bureau Sensitive plants: <i>Carex capitata</i> , <i>Utricularia minor</i> , <i>Tomentypnum nitens</i> , and <i>Gentiana newberryi</i> var. <i>newberryi</i> , <i>Carex lasiocarpa</i> var. <i>americana</i>
Oregon Gulch RNA (1,047 acres)	Unusual plant or animal association: Green's Mariposa Lily, Howell's false-caraway, and Bellinger's meadow-foam Natural values and accessibility.	Douglas-fir/ponderosa pine forest with a poison oak, hairy snowberry, or Piper Oregon grape; White fir moderately dry site forest with baldhip rose, hairy snowberry, and star flower understory; and Manzanita-wedgeleaf ceanothus/ bunchgrass chaparral
Scotch Creek RNA (1795 acres)	Typical representation of a common plant or animal association: Scientific research and as a baseline study area for chaparral vegetation	Two Eastern Siskiyou chaparral types: a Rosaceous type dominated by <i>Quercus garryana</i> with <i>Prunus subcordata</i> , <i>P. virginiana</i> , <i>P. emarginata</i> , and <i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> and a different chaparral community dominated by <i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i> , <i>Arctostaphylos</i> species, and <i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>

**a - Out of 966 acres total in the Jenny Creek ACEC RNA, only 269 acres are within the planning area boundary.*



Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Areas

Preliminary issues:

- » How would the alternatives affect the relevant and important resource values of existing and proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), Research Natural Areas (RNAs), and the Mariposa Lily Botanical Area?

Should these areas be retained?

Are there other areas on BLM-administered lands that should be considered for ACECs nomination?





Fire and Fuels, Forestry and Air Quality

Preliminary issues:

- » What would be the BLM's expected contribution to greenhouse gas emissions from vegetation management activities such as science-based ecological restoration and hazardous fuels reduction?
- » What would be the effects of the BLM vegetation management activities, such as science-based ecological restoration and hazardous fuels reduction, on long-term net carbon storage?
- » How would the alternatives affect stand level composition, density, stand structure and forest successional stages?
- » How would the alternatives contribute to a resilient distribution of structural classes and forest stand types?
- » How would the alternatives affect wildfire risk to Highly Valued Resources and Assets (i.e., monument objects and wildland urban interface)?
- » How would the alternatives contribute toward restoring fire regimes?

What additional information or issues should be considered?





Social, Economic, and Resource Uses

Preliminary issues:

- » How would the alternatives affect opportunities for new land use authorizations and modification of existing land use authorizations in the planning area?
- » How would the alternatives affect public access, access for administrative purposes, and land tenure actions?
- » How would the alternatives affect the lands available for livestock grazing and forage availability and management practices on those lands?
- » What social and economic values are tied to specific resource management considerations (e.g., recreation and tourism, grazing management, communication site and transmission line leases, forest management) and how would these values and uses be affected by changes in management?
- » How would low-income, minority, and Tribal populations be affected by changes in management, and would any identified populations be negatively or adversely affected?

What additional information or issues should be considered?





Recreation, National Conservation Lands and Visuals

Preliminary issues:

- » How would the alternatives affect BLM-administered lands outside of designated wilderness with identified wilderness characteristics?
- » How would the proposed management alternatives affect the BLM's ability to provide recreation opportunities and infrastructure?
- » How would the alternatives affect scenic quality on BLM-administered lands in the planning area?
- » How would the alternatives affect the free-flowing condition, water quality, identified outstandingly remarkable values, and tentative classification of suitable Wild and Scenic River segments?

What additional information or issues should be considered?





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Issues We've Heard Are Important

- » Unique Biodiversity
- » Wildfire
- » Forest Health
- » Recreation
- » Grazing
- » O&C Lands
- » Access
- » Travel Management
- » Ongoing Litigation
- » Public Input





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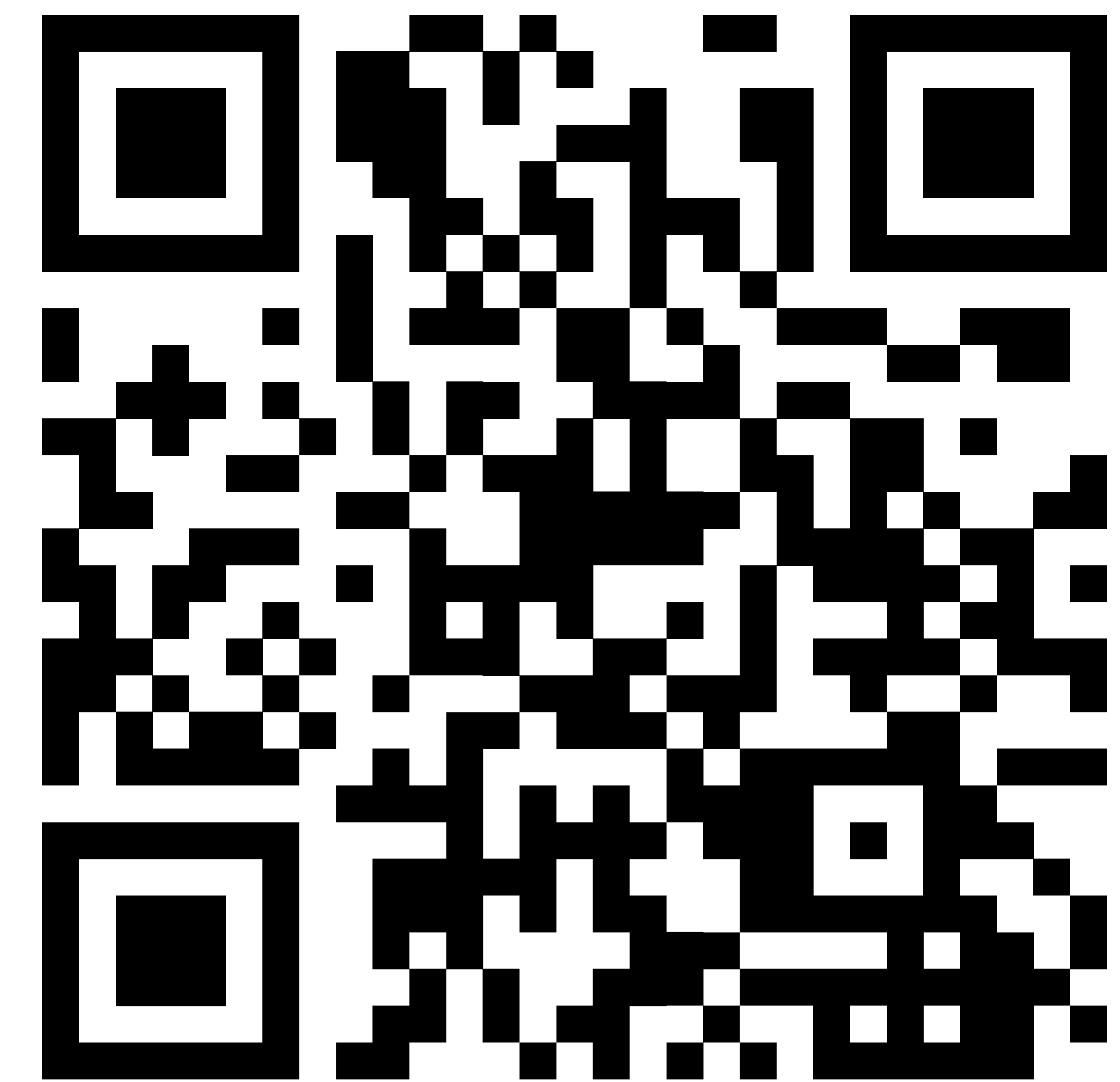
Share Your Feedback and Comments

We appreciate your help in this planning effort. You can provide comments in the following ways:

- » Share feedback on the maps
- » Fill out and submit a comment card
- » Submit a comment at the BLM ePlanning site:
www.bit.ly/CSNMScopingComment
- » Submit a written comment via mail:

ATTN: CSNM RMP Project Manager,
BLM Medford District
3040 Biddle Rd.
Medford, OR 97504

BLM ePlanning Site



Scan QR Code with your
Smart Phone

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For More Information

For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning protest process, please contact:



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