

Recreation

Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon



Background:

BLM lands in western Oregon offer unparalleled challenge and exploration. Visitors can experience the solitude of the Table Rock Wilderness Area, ride the rugged Shotgun OHV Trails, or drift down the Rogue River. In managing recreational areas, the BLM fosters stewardship of natural and cultural resources, create tourism opportunities for local communities, and respond to activity-specific recreation demands from the public. In the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP), the BLM analyzed how the alternatives in the Draft RMP/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) affect the types and levels of BLM-provided recreation opportunities across western Oregon.

Key Points:

- **The Proposed RMP would increase recreation opportunities as compared to what's currently offered on BLM lands in western Oregon.**
 - 20 percent of the planning area would be designated as a Recreation Management Areas (RMAs), which is approximately 491,000 acres.
 - The BLM focused on providing close-to-home recreation access based on 30 and 60 minute travel distances from the 12 most populated communities in the planning area.
 - The BLM identified new potential recreation opportunities through a collaborative effort with members of the public, who contributed their ideas through interactive websites, design charrettes, and comments on the plan.

- **The Proposed RMP would protect the maximum number of lands with wilderness characteristics, along with six suitable Wild and Scenic River segments.**
 - The BLM would be protecting the maximum number of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics allowed under current authorities, which is approximately 79,000 acres.
 - 87% of lands that possess wilderness characteristics would be protected under the Proposed RMP.
 - Under the Proposed RMP, the BLM would protect the additional 6 river segments that were found suitable in the BLM's Wild and Scenic River Suitability Determination study.

- **The BLM heard from more than 2,500 members of the public about recreation opportunities who contributed their ideas through interactive websites, design charrettes, and comments on the Draft RMP/EIS.**
 - The BLM brought members of the public in early to the planning process, and held a total of eight public meetings (four design charrettes, and four recreation workshops during the Draft RMP/EIS comment period). These meetings were specifically designed to give members of the public an opportunity to help shape the future of recreation on BLM lands in western Oregon. Public input during the planning process was a vital source of information in designing recreation opportunities.
 - Our analysis showed that demand for recreation opportunities is increasing. The RMP is responding to that increasing demand by providing more recreation opportunities, especially in areas near growing communities.
 - There were 5.4 million recreation visits in western Oregon BLM lands in 2013. The public continues to demand a diverse range of recreational opportunities in a variety of natural resource settings.

The Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon will determine how the BLM-administered lands in western Oregon will be managed to produce a sustained yield of timber products, to further the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide for clean water, to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, , to provide for recreation opportunities, and to coordinate management of lands surrounding the Coquille Forest with the Coquille Tribe.

For more information, please visit the BLM's Resource Management Plans of western Oregon website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/index.php>