DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Amendment to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan, Oregon, and Associated Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Medford District Office, Ashland Resource Area, Medford, Oregon, intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) which will amend the 2008 Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan (CSNM RMP), and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the RMP Amendment with associated EA. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until November 30, 2011. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meeting(s) will be announced at least 15 days in advance through the local media, mailings to interested individuals, and on the BLM Medford Web site at: http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/index.php. In order to be included in the EA, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the EA.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the CSNM RMP Amendment and associated EA by any of the following methods:
- Email: kminor@blm.gov.
- Fax: (541) 618–2400, Attention: Kathy Minor.
- Mail or hand delivery: Bureau of Land Management, Medford District Office, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504, Attention: Kathy Minor.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Medford District Office. All comments must contain the name and address of the submitter, regardless of delivery method, in order to be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: And/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Kathy Minor, CSNM Planner, telephone (541) 618–2245; address Medford District Office, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504; email kminor@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339. To contact the above individual during normal business hours. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM Medford District Office, Ashland Resource Area, Medford, Oregon, intends to prepare an RMP amendment with an associated EA for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. This RMP amendment process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process.

This RMP amendment and associated EA will modify land tenure adjustment decisions in the CSNM RMP to allow for land exchanges that “furthers the protective purposes of the monument,” where the public land involved is located within the CSNM. Currently, the CSNM RMP allows for exchanges only where the public land involved is located outside the CSNM. This amendment would be consistent with the Presidential Proclamation 7318, dated June 9, 2000, which states, “All Federal lands within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land laws, including but not limited to, withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument” (emphasis added).

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. The Medford BLM seeks public input on issues and planning criteria. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM’s decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency. BLM personnel identified one preliminary planning issue for the planning area. The preliminary planning issue is that the CSNM RMP is inconsistent with Presidential Proclamation 7318, dated June 9, 2000. The Proclamation provides for exchanges that further the protective purposes of the monument. The CSNM RMP precluded exchanges where the Federal land is located within the monument, thus making it inconsistent with the Proclamation. Preliminary planning criteria include:
1. The plan amendment will be consistent with Presidential Proclamation 7318;
2. Lands addressed in the RMP will be public lands (including split estate
The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan amendment in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: Lands and realty, botany, wildlife and fisheries, hydrology, soils, archeology, recreation, fire and fuels management, and Geographic Information Systems.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mark Wilkening, Public Affairs Specialist, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, Oregon 97918, (541) 473–6218 or email mwilkeni@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1 (800) 877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The November 29, 2011, meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST) at the Umatilla National Forest Supervisor Office in Pendleton, Oregon. Topics may include: Welcoming/Orientation of New Members, Election of Officers, Power/ Energy Transmission options, updates by Federal managers on litigation, energy projects, and other issues affecting their districts/units and other matters as may reasonably come before the RACs. All RAC meetings are open to the public; time is set aside for oral comments at 1 p.m. on November 29, 2011. Those who verbally address the RAC are asked to provide a written statement of their presentation. Unless otherwise approved by the RAC Chair, the public comment period will last no longer than 15 minutes; each speaker may address the RAC for a maximum of five minutes. If reasonable accommodation is required, please contact the BLM Vale District Office at (541) 473–6218 as soon as possible. Before including your address, phone number, email 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 in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Donald N. Gonzalez,
BLM Vale District Manager.

State of Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meetings

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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