

Douglas, Curry, and Coos Counties. These counties are located in southwestern Oregon. The Medford District is responsible for management of approximately 866,278 acres of surface and an additional 4,672 acres of subsurface (split-estate) lands.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the ARMP/ROD are available upon request by contacting the Medford District Office, Bureau of Land Management, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon, 97504. The telephone number is 503-770-2200. This document has been sent to all those individuals and groups who were on the mailing list for the Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement. Copies of the Approved RMP are also available for inspection in the public room at the BLM Oregon/Washington State Office, 1515 SW Fifth St. Portland, Oregon; and Jackson and Josephine County libraries during normal office hours.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dave Jones, District Manager, Medford District Office, Bureau of Land Management, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon, 97504. He can also be reached by telephone number at 503-770-2200 or by FAX at 503-770-2400.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Medford District Approved RMP/ROD is essentially the same as the Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan presented in the October, 1994 Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS). No significant changes have been made from the Proposed RMP.

However, some minor changes and clarifying language has been made in response to protests the BLM received on the PRMP/FEIS and as a result of staff review. Minor changes include: changes to the visual resource management class and rural interface area designation in the Cobleigh Road area; clarification of the timber harvest deferral in the Cascade/Siskiyou Ecological Emphasis Area; language revisions made to tighten the link between the approved RMP and the 1994 Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (or Northwest Forest Plan/ROD); and finally, revisions were made that incorporate guidelines issued by the Regional Ecosystem Office since the

issuance of the 1994 Record of Decision named above. Such guidelines may clarify or interpret the 1994 Record of Decision. Seven alternatives that encompass a spectrum of realistic management options were considered in the planning process. The final plan is a mixture of the management objectives and actions that, in the opinion of the BLM, best resolve the issues and concerns that originally drove the preparation of the plan and also meet the plan elements or adopt decisions made in the 1994 Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (or Northwest Forest Plan/ROD). The Northwest Forest Plan/ROD was signed by the Secretary of the Interior who directed the BLM to adopt it in its Resource Management Plans for western Oregon. Further, those decisions were upheld by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on December 21, 1994. Following is a summary of some of the major decisions made through this planning effort.

**Ecosystem Management and Forest Product Production:** The BLM administered lands are allocated to Riparian Reserves, Late-Successional Reserves, Administratively Withdrawn Areas, Congressional Reserves, Applegate Adaptive Management Area, and Matrix (Connectivity/Diversity Blocks and General Forest Management Areas). An Aquatic Conservation Strategy will be applied to all lands and waters under BLM administration. An allowable sale quantity for commercial forest products is established. A process for monitoring, evaluating and amending or revising the plan is described.

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC):** The plan designates or redesignates the following 30 areas as ACECs, Research Natural Areas, Outstanding Natural Areas or a combination thereof: Eight Dollar Mountain (1,247 public acres), King Mountain Rock Garden (67 public acres), Table Rocks (1,240 public acres), Bill Creek (40 public acres), Bobby Creek-ACEC (428 public acres), Cedars of Beaver Creek (39 public acres), Crooks Creek (149 public acres), Baker Cypress (10 public acres), French Flat (656 public acres), Hole-in-the-Rock (63 public acres), Hoxie Creek (255 public acres), Iron Creek (286 public acres), Jenny Creek (966 public acres), Moon

Prairie (91 public acres), Pilot Rock (544 public acres), Poverty Flat (29 public acres), Rough and Ready Creek (1164 public acres), Sterling Mine Ditch (141 public acres), Tin Cup (84 public acres), Bobby Creek-RNA (1,702 public acres), Brewer Spruce Enlargement (1,384 public acres), Grayback Glade (1,069 public acres), Holton Creek (423 public acres), Lost Lake (384 public acres), North Fork Silver Creek (499 public acres), Old Baldy (166 public acres), Oregon Gulch (1,047 public acres), Pipe Fork (529 public acres), Round Top Butte (604 public acres), Scotch Creek (1,797 public acres). Management direction for the individual ACECs is prescribed in the ARMP/ROD, but may be supplemented or clarified in coordinated resource management activity plans, watershed analyses or other applicable interagency and/or multi-program decision documents. The ACECs have been designated to protect or enhance a wide variety of natural values or processes or to protect the public from natural hazards or provide for research natural areas as components of the Oregon Natural Heritage system. Restricted or prohibited uses are described in the ARMP and are designed to meet the management objectives for each area. Prescriptions typically include restrictions on the use of prescribed fire or fire suppression techniques, restrictions on motor vehicle use or the removal of vegetative materials, no-surface-occupancy clauses for mineral or energy leases or permits, prohibition of new rights-of-way, etc.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers:** Big Windy Creek (6.8 miles), East Fork of Big Windy Creek (3.6 miles), Dulong Creek (1.7 miles), and Howard Creek (7.0 miles) have been determined to be administratively suitable for designation as a component of the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System under a wild river classification. All administratively suitable or eligible (pending further study) river segments will be managed under BLM interim management guidelines pending further legislative or administrative consideration, as applicable. In addition, all other potentially eligible, free-flowing rivers or streams adjacent to BLM administered lands in the subject planning area were reviewed.

**Off-Highway-Vehicle (OHV) Use:** the ARMP/ROD makes the following designations for OHV management in the Medford District/Area: 391,400 acres will be open; 441,700 acres will be restricted to designated existing roads and trails and/or seasonally closed; and 25,200 acres will be closed to all use, except for specified administrative or emergency uses. In addition, the ARMP/