



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Grants Pass Field Office  
2164 NE Spalding Avenue  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526  
[www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford)

**MAY 23 2017**

1792 (ORM070)

DOI-BLM-ORWA-M070-2016-0006-EA

Dear Interested Party:

The Grants Pass Field Office has completed an Environmental Assessment and a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the Pickett West Forest Management Project. The Environmental Assessment analyzes the effects of a No Action Alternative and two Action Alternatives. Treatments are proposed in areas designated as Matrix, Matrix Adaptive Management Area, and Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocation as defined in the 1995 Record of Decision and Medford District's Resource Management Plan. Proposed treatments include density management, restoration thinning, understory reduction, and hazardous fuels reduction maintenance.

The planning area is located within the Hellgate-Rogue River, Deer Creek, and Lower Applegate River watersheds, in Josephine and Jackson Counties, Oregon. There is more location information on the attached map.

In 2015 forest restoration needs across Oregon were categorized and the three watersheds within the planning area were among those most in need of active restoration to promote forest resiliency. The Pickett West project is designed to meet multiple objectives including the Oregon and California Revested Lands Act of 1937. The proposed treatments would provide a sustainable supply of timber, improve forest resiliency, and enhance or maintain northern spotted owl habitat. Treatments are expected to reduce the long-term risk of disturbances such as disease outbreaks or potential catastrophic wildfire.

The following table provides a summary of the activities proposed under the two Action Alternatives:

<b>Proposed Commercial Activities*</b>	<b>Alternative 2</b>	<b>Alternative 3</b>
Restoration Thinning	3,025 acres	1,028 acres
Density Management	2,226 acres	3,185 acres
<b>Total Commercial Treatments</b>	<b>5,251 acres</b>	<b>4,213 acres</b>
Hazardous Fuels Reduction Maintenance	11,102 acres	11,102 acres

\* The definition of treatment types is provided in the Environmental Assessment and the Reader's Guide on our website. The address is listed below.

### Public Involvement

The Pickett West Forest Management Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact are available for a 30-day public comment period, beginning May 30, 2017. The public comment period begins when a legal notice is published in the *Grants Pass Daily Courier* and the *Illinois Valley News*.

You can access project information at the BLM's ePlanning website at <http://tinyurl.com/BLMePlanning-PickettWest>. Hard copies are available at the Grants Pass Interagency Office at 2164 NE Spalding Ave, Grants Pass, OR 97526. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed on holidays. Comments on the project must be received by close of business June 29, 2017 to be considered in the final decision making process. Please send comments to the address above or email to Don Ferguson, Public Information Specialist, at [blm\\_or\\_pwest@blm.gov](mailto:blm_or_pwest@blm.gov).

All comments will be made available for public review. If you would like your personal information withheld from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, please state this clearly at the beginning of your written comment. All comments received from organizations or officials of organizations, businesses, or government agencies will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

### **Field Tours**

We will be hosting two public field tours on June 17, 2017. There will be an opportunity for a morning and an afternoon field tour at two locations.

The morning session will begin at 9 am. We will be meeting at the Speedy Mini Mart located at the intersection of the Rogue River Highway and Savage Creek Road. The address is 6415 Rogue River Hwy, Grants Pass, OR 97527. The field tour location is approximately 15 minutes up Savage Creek Road. You are welcome to drive your personal vehicle or ride in a BLM vehicle to the site. Once at the field tour site, BLM staff will give a short presentation, followed by an opportunity for open discussion. The morning session will conclude at 11:30 am.

The afternoon session will begin at 1 pm. We will be meeting at Robertson Bridge County Park at the intersection of Lower River Road and Pickett Creek Road. The address is 12171 Lower River Road, Grants Pass, OR 97526. The field tour location is approximately 10 minutes up Pickett Creek Road. You are welcome to drive your personal vehicle or ride in a BLM vehicle to the site. Once at the field tour site, BLM staff will give a short presentation, followed by an opportunity for open discussion. The afternoon session will conclude around 3:30 pm.

For more information about this project and the field tours, please visit the website above or contact Don Ferguson, at (541) 471-6520 or the email listed above.

We appreciate your interest in the Pickett West Forest Management project.

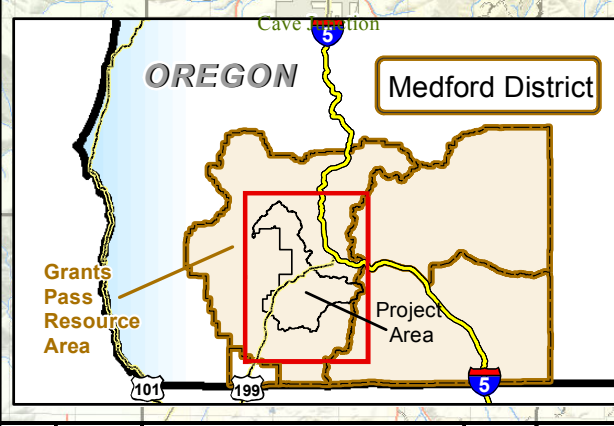
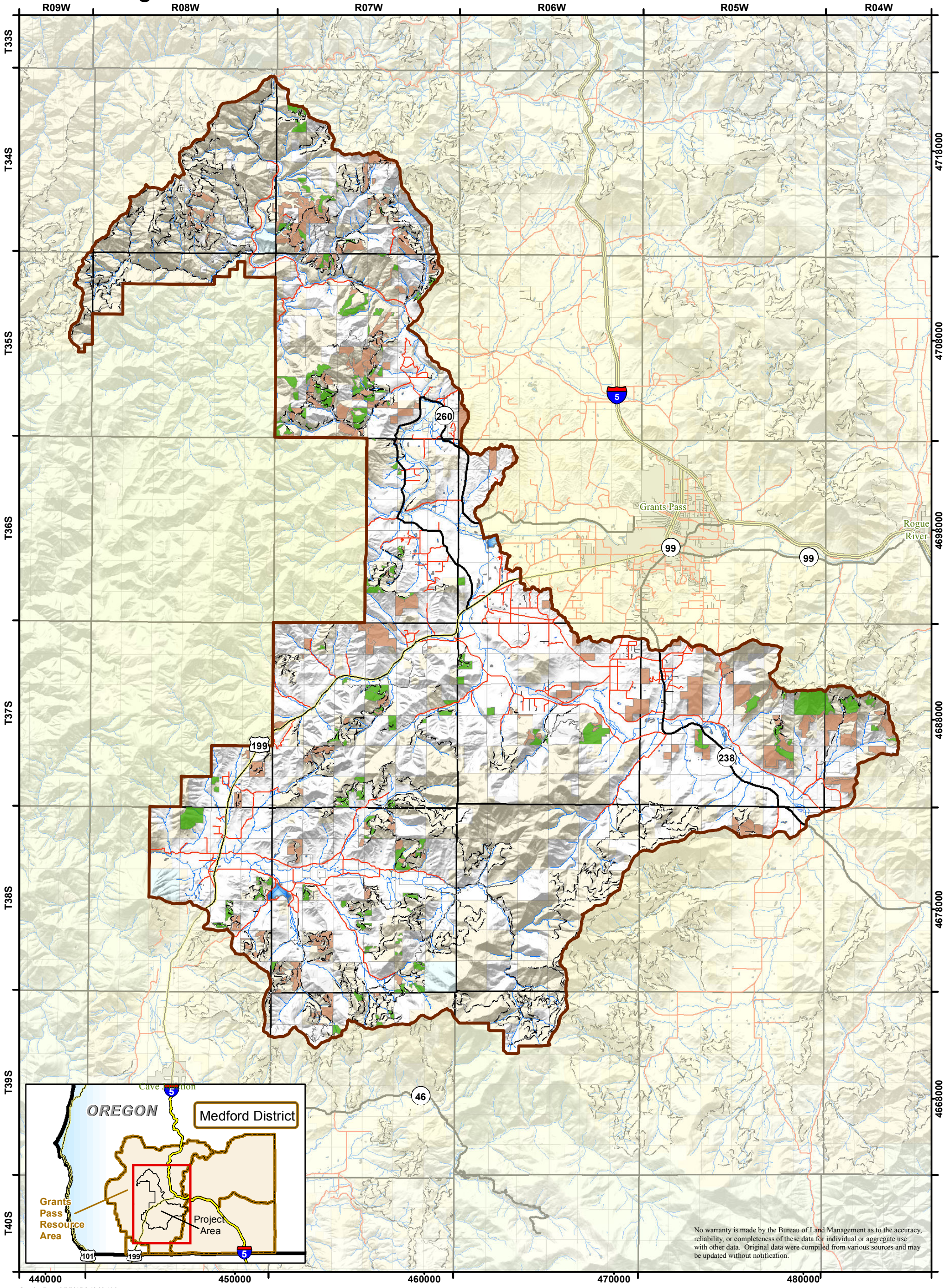
Sincerely,



Allen Bollschweiler  
Field Manager  
Grants Pass Resource Area

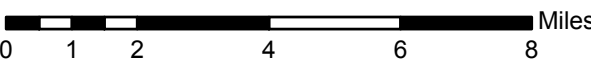
Enclosure

# Pickett West Forest Management Project Planning Area



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

Creation Date: 3/8/2017 8:48:33 AM



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|--|--|---------------------------|
| Pickett West Planning Area                       | Bureau of Land Management                  | Bureau of Land Management |
| Pickett West Planning Area Mask                  | County route                               | U.S. Forest Service       |
| Proposed Treatment Units                         | Other state route                          | Local Government          |
| Proposed Hazardous Fuels Reduction (maintenance) | Municipal route (urban, residential, etc.) | State                     |
|  | Private road (no symbol)                   | Private or Company        |

