

SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS IN THE CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

August 2008

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has managed the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) since its designation in June of 2000. The draft plan was released for public review in June 2002 and comments were taken through December 19, 2002. More than 17,000 comments were received.

The Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) was published in February 2005. A 30-day protest/comment period and a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review were held following the release of the PRMP/FEIS. Twelve protest letters were received. In addition, about 13,000 comment letters were received.

The *Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision* (CSNM RMP/ROD) provides guidance and direction for a strategy aimed at protecting and enhancing the public lands and associated resources on 52,947 acres of federal land in southwestern Oregon. The overall objective of this planning effort has been to provide a collaborative, community-based approach for management of the CSNM.

The CSNM RMP/ROD would be implemented over a 10-year timeframe, or as funding allows. Most of the land-use plan decisions are effective upon approval of this document. Many decisions, however, will take a number of years to implement on the ground. Some of the decisions contained in this document will require the preparation of detailed, project-level National Environmental Policy Act analyses prior to implementation (e.g. trail improvements, vegetation treatments, etc.). Public involvement opportunities, including further protest or appeal opportunities, may be provided at that time.

Old-Growth Emphasis Area

- Thinning and selective prescribed fire treatments on 5,465 acres.
- Pilot studies, designed to maintain ecological integrity and lower fire hazard, on up to 200 acres in mature stands in the wildland-urban interface.
- Treat noxious weeds as aggressively as funding allows.

Diversity Emphasis Area

- Pilot studies, designed to enhance knowledge and understanding of the fire-dependent plant communities, limited to 10 acres in size with the exception of studies involving broadcast burning.
- Pilot studies involving broadcast burning limited to 100 acres in size and 200 acres annually, with no more than 100 acres occurring in a drainage area.
- Other types of prescribed burning limited to 10 acres in size.
- Up to 50 percent of the Diversity Emphasis Area lands in the wildland-urban interface treated to reduce fire hazard.
- Treat noxious weeds as aggressively as funding allows.

Transportation Management

- Decommission 53 miles of road in the CSNM.
- Close 21 miles of road in the CSNM.



Livestock Grazing

- Adopts a process for determining compatibility of livestock grazing with “protecting the objects of biological interest” and evaluating grazing allotments for lease authorization.

Recreation Management

- Recreational activities available, but limited, include: recreational stock use, rock climbing, bicycle use, hiking, and dispersed camping.
- Hunting and fishing activities must comply with regulations set by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Persons requiring wheelchairs for mobility may use a motorized or mechanized wheel chair to access any area in the monument.
- New trail construction or designation will only be considered to mitigate resource damage.

Land Tenure Adjustments

- All currently administered public lands in the monument will be retained.
- Any newly acquired lands within the greater monument boundary will become part of the CSNM.

Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area

- The Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area will continue to be managed under BLM's *Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review*.

Collections

- Collection of monument resources (rocks, minerals, petrified wood, fossils, etc.) is prohibited; exceptions include collections authorized by permit and collection of up to one gallon per day of fruits, berries, nuts or mushrooms for personal use.
- Christmas tree cutting is prohibited.

Off-Highway Travel

- All mechanized and motorized modes of surface travel (i.e. Off-Highway Vehicles, motorcycles, All-Terrain Vehicles, snowmobiles, bicycles, and tractors) must stay on designated open roads, except for emergency, administrative, or other authorized use.

Valid Existing Rights

- BLM will provide reasonable access to non-federally owned land that is surrounded by public land.
- BLM-administered lands, with restrictions, will continue to be available for needed rights-of-way.

