



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504
<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford>

Jun 10, 2020

(ORM060)
BLM Ashland Field Office

Re: Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project
DOI-BLM-ORWA-M060-2020-0001-EA

Dear Interested Public:

The Ashland Field Office, Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is requesting public comments on the Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project Environmental Assessment (EA). The Bear Grub project is located on BLM-administered lands near the community of Ruch and southwest of the city of Medford, in Jackson County, Oregon. The EA includes an analysis of proposed vegetation management activities on up to **4,910 acres** of BLM-administered land, which includes:

Hazardous fuels reduction treatments (i.e. small diameter thinning and prescribed fire) on **3,465 acres**.

Timber harvest (i.e. selection harvest, commercial thinning), and follow-up activity fuels treatments on up to **1,445 acres**.

The BLM analyzed three action alternatives and a No Action Alternative in the EA. The action alternatives (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4) differ in the type of harvest prescribed or the amount of retention prescribed.

The EA is available online on the BLM's National ePlanning register at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/home>. You can also use the map search or enter the NEPA number: DOI-BLM-ORWA-M060-2020-0001-EA to find the project website. For a direct link to the project, please go to: <https://go.usa.gov/xw8Vw>. Paper copies are also available upon request. Please direct EA requests, comments, or questions to the Ashland Planning and Environmental Coordinator. There are three options to submit comments on the EA:

1. Submit comments via the BLM's ePlanning NEPA register project website by selecting the Documents section and clicking on "Participate Now" in the webpage.
***Preferred method**
2. Email comments to BLM_OR_AFO_VMP@blm.gov, subject line "Comments"
3. Mail comments to BLM, Attn: AFO Planning, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504

For comments to be considered before a final decision is made on the proposal, please submit them by 4:30 p.m. on July 13, 2020.

All substantive comments received by the date above will be considered before the BLM reaches a decision to the extent feasible (40 CFR 1503.4). Specific and substantive comments are the most helpful. Substantive comments do one or more of the following:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the EA;
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of, methodology of, or assumptions used for the EA;
- Present new information relevant to the analysis;
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the EA that meet the purpose and need;

In conjunction with the public comment period, the BLM has scheduled a virtual public meeting that will be held on two different dates and times. The material presented at each meeting will be the same, and two dates have been scheduled to accommodate more people.

- June 23rd, 2020, 6:00-8:00 pm, (Technology Test 5:00-5:30pm)
- June 25th, 2020, 1:00-3:00 pm, (Technology Test 12:00-12:30pm)

At the virtual public meeting, the BLM will provide a project overview. This will be held using the Zoom platform and space is limited. To register for a meeting, please read and fill out the requested information found on the “Bear Grub Virtual Public Meeting Registration Instructions” and email to BLM_OR_AFO_VMP@blm.gov, subject line “Registration and Questions”.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project. Your input plays an important role in our land management decisions.

Sincerely,

**LAUREN
BROWN**

Digitally signed by
LAUREN BROWN
Date: 2020.06.10
14:22:34 -07'00'

Lauren Brown
Field Manager
Ashland Field Office

Please note: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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 to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. AUTHORITY: 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5

Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project – Virtual Public Meeting Registration Instructions

In conjunction with the public comment period for the Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project Environmental Assessment (EA), the BLM has scheduled a virtual public meeting that will be held on two different dates and times. The material presented at each meeting will be the same, and two dates have been scheduled to accommodate more people. Please only register for one session.

We will be using the Zoom virtual meeting platform for the Bear Grub Virtual Public Meetings. The best way to use Zoom is by a computer, tablet, or smart phone, however, you can also call in on a landline. We will also offer assistance for a technology test prior to the meeting for anyone who would like to check their setup to ensure they will be able to access the meeting.

The dates for the Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project virtual public meeting are:

- June 23rd, 2020, 6:00-8:00 pm, with Technology Test (as needed) 5:00-5:30pm
- June 25th, 2020, 1:00-3:00 pm, with Technology Test (as needed) 12:00-12:30pm

Please only sign up for one of these sessions since the presentations will be identical. This will allow us to accommodate more people across both sessions.

Meeting registration closes on Sunday June 21st, 2020.

Pre-Submit Your Questions *(not required):*

To address as many questions from participants as possible, we are requesting that participants send in pre-submitted questions that you would like to have answered during the meeting. The goal is to answer relevant and substantive questions from the public that will help in developing your written comments. However, due to time constraints and depending on the number of questions received, *we may not be able to address all questions during the meeting.* We will answer pre-submitted questions as time allows. **To address as many questions as possible, it would be most helpful if questions were submitted by June 19th,** however registrations will be accepted until Sunday, June 21st.

Registration information for Bear Grub Virtual Public Meeting

1. Space is limited and registrations will be accepted on a first come first serve basis.
2. To register for a meeting, please email the following information to BLM_OR_AFO_VMP@blm.gov: **Name/s, email, phone, the date you would like to attend, and any pre-submitted questions you have.** Please fill in the subject line "BGVMP registration and questions".
3. You will receive a confirmation registration email with further meeting details.

If you have no preference of what meeting you would like to attend, and we can assign you in an open meeting. Please state that you have no preference in your registration email.

Please note: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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 to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. AUTHORITY: 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5

Bear Grub Virtual Public Meetings Rules

- Inappropriate language or disruptive behavior will not be permitted.
- To accommodate more people, please only register for one login per household.
- Please only register to attend one session so that we can accommodate as many people as possible.
- You may not register for other people besides those in your household who will be logging in under one email address.
- Audience cameras and audio will be turned off throughout the meeting.
- This meeting will be recorded and shared publicly on the ePlanning website.
- Meeting information, including participant lists and emails will become part of the project administrative record.

By registering to attend this meeting, you are agreeing to the rules listed above for the Bear Grub Virtual Public Meeting.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Bear Grub Vegetation Management Project. Your input plays an important role in our land management decisions.

Please note: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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 to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. AUTHORITY: 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5