



File Code: 1950

Date: April 27, 2016

Dear Stakeholder:

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, in conjunction with the Medford and Coos Bay BLM, has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the 2015 Southwestern Oregon Mineral Withdrawal in aid of legislation. The proposed withdrawal is located on the Wild Rivers and Gold Beach Ranger Districts and BLM Medford and Coos Bay Districts in Josephine and Curry counties, Oregon. The area encompasses 101,021 acres in the Rough and Ready-Baldface Creek and the Hunter Creek-North Fork Pistol River subwatersheds.

The area would be temporarily withdrawn from settlement, sale, location, and entry under the public land laws, location and entry under the United States mining laws, and operation of the mineral and geothermal leasing laws while Congress considers legislation for a permanent withdrawal.

Please see the EA and its supporting documents for additional details. The EA is available for review online at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=47877> and at the offices of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the BLM Medford and Coos Bay Districts. For additional information about the project, please contact Roy Bergstrom at (541) 618-2061 or via email at rbergstrom@fs.fed.us.

Administrative Review (Objection): This 30-day notice and comment period is provided pursuant to 36 CFR 218.25. Comments will be considered, however, no pre-decisional objection and administrative review period is provided because the decision for withdrawal rests with the Secretary of the Interior and not with the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management. Please see the section entitled "Decision Framework" in the EA (pg 2) for details about the decision process and the role of the agencies.

Comments and timeframe: Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments concerning this proposal will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice on April 27, 2016. The publication date in the newspapers of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Comments must be made in writing, should be within the scope of the proposed withdrawal, have a direct relationship to the proposal, and include supporting reasons. Individuals and organizations are responsible for ensuring that their comments are received in a timely manner.

How to Comment: If you wish to comment, please include the following information:

1. Name and address
2. Subject: SW Oregon Mineral Withdrawal
3. Identification of the individual or entity who authored the comment

Submit your written comments using one of the following methods:

1. **Via email:** Send to comments-pacificnorthwest-rogue-forest-siskiyou@fs.fed.us. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc, .docx), or Adobe (pdf). Please include "SW Oregon Mineral Withdrawal" in the subject line.
2. **Via U.S. postal service:** Send to Robert MacWhorter, Forest Supervisor, c/o Shannon Downey, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504.



3. **Via FAX:** Please include the subject matter and send ATTN: Shannon Downey to (541) 618-2400.
4. **In person:** Comments may be hand-delivered at the Medford Interagency Office at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon during normal business hours: 8:00 AM-4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality. Where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without names and addresses.

If you require documents or have questions about the comment period, please contact Shannon Downey at (541) 618-2074 (email: shannondowney@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,



ROBERT G. MACWHORTER
Forest Supervisor