



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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AUG 11 2016

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eugene District, Upper Willamette Field Office has begun planning for the McKenzie View Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-ORWA-060-2016-0012-EA, a commercial thinning timber project, and is seeking public input.

In 2013, these project areas were considered as part of the McKenzie Landscape Project (Project) along with several areas not currently under consideration for harvest activities. Public scoping for the original Project began in August 2013 with a scoping letter. A public meeting was also held in Leaburg, Oregon on September 26, 2013. Approximately nine comment letters were received. Subsequently, the Project was delayed due to a variety of factors including the need for additional wildlife surveys and securing legal access to some units. Additionally, the land use allocations for these areas were anticipated to change with the signing of the Record of Decision for the Western Oregon Resource Management Plan (2016 RMP). This new project considers those areas that are appropriate for harvest and treatment under the 2016 RMP.

The purpose of this proposal is to complete forest management, including timber harvest, in conformance with BLM's mission as detailed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the O&C Act of 1937 and the 2016 RMP.

The proposed project is located 8 miles northeast of Leaburg, Oregon in T. 16 S., R. 3 E., Sections 29, 30, 31; T. 16 S., R. 2 E., Section 25; T. 17 S., R. 2 E., Section 1; and T. 17 S., R. 3 E., Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 18 (see attached map). The project is within the McKenzie River 5<sup>th</sup> Field Watershed. Commercial thinning is being considered on approximately 800 acres. The project may also include connected actions such as culvert replacements, road renovation, road construction, and road decommissioning.

The stands proposed for commercial thinning range from 70 to 140 years of age and are located within the Low Intensity Timber Area (LITA) and Moderate Intensity Timber Area (MITA) suballocations of the Harvest Land Base land use allocations. Stands are dominated by Douglas-fir with smaller components of western hemlock, western redcedar, and incense-cedar. Hardwoods such as golden chinquapin, madrone, big leaf maple, and red alder exist in varying amounts on the landscape but are generally not present in the uplands. These stands are generally overstocked, dense, lack understory development and diversity, and have a canopy cover averaging around 66%. An interdisciplinary team (IDT) determined that the forest stands were appropriate for thinning treatments to meet objectives of the 2016 RMP. The BLM has extensive experience in implementing silviculture treatments (such as commercial thinning, variable density thinning, and gap creation) in similar stands with positive results. Such treatments have shown to be successful in meeting key objectives defined by the 2016 RMP. Given the current condition of the forest stands within the project area and of other management activities planned within the watershed, the IDT determined this area to be a priority for treatment.

Road work and post-harvest fuel reduction treatments are actions being considered in conjunction with the proposed commercial thinning project.

The proposed project would implement specific management objectives outlined in the 2016 RMP for LITA/MITA including (2016 RMP pp. 1107-1109):

- manage forests to achieve continual timber production that can be sustained through a balance of growth and harvest
- offer for sale the declared Allowable Sale Quantity of timber
- in harvested or disturbed areas, ensure the establishment and survival of desirable trees appropriate to the site and enhance their growth
- enhance the economic value of timber in forest stands
- provide complex early successional ecosystems
- develop diverse late-successional ecosystems for a portion of the rotation
- provide a variety of forest structural stages distributed both temporally and spatially

We would like to hear from you regarding any issues or concerns you feel we should consider in development of the project. Specific solution-oriented comments would be most effective and useful. Scoping comments are welcome anytime, but to be most helpful, please submit your comments by August 24, 2016. Scoping comments help BLM identify issues and develop alternatives to the proposed action. To submit issues or questions about the proposed treatments, I encourage you to submit them via email at the following address: [BLM\\_OR\\_EU\\_Mail@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_EU_Mail@blm.gov) and identify your comments as being for the "McKenzie View EA." If you desire to send a letter via regular mail or a FAX, please use the address/fax number in our letterhead, ATTN: Upper Willamette Field Manager.

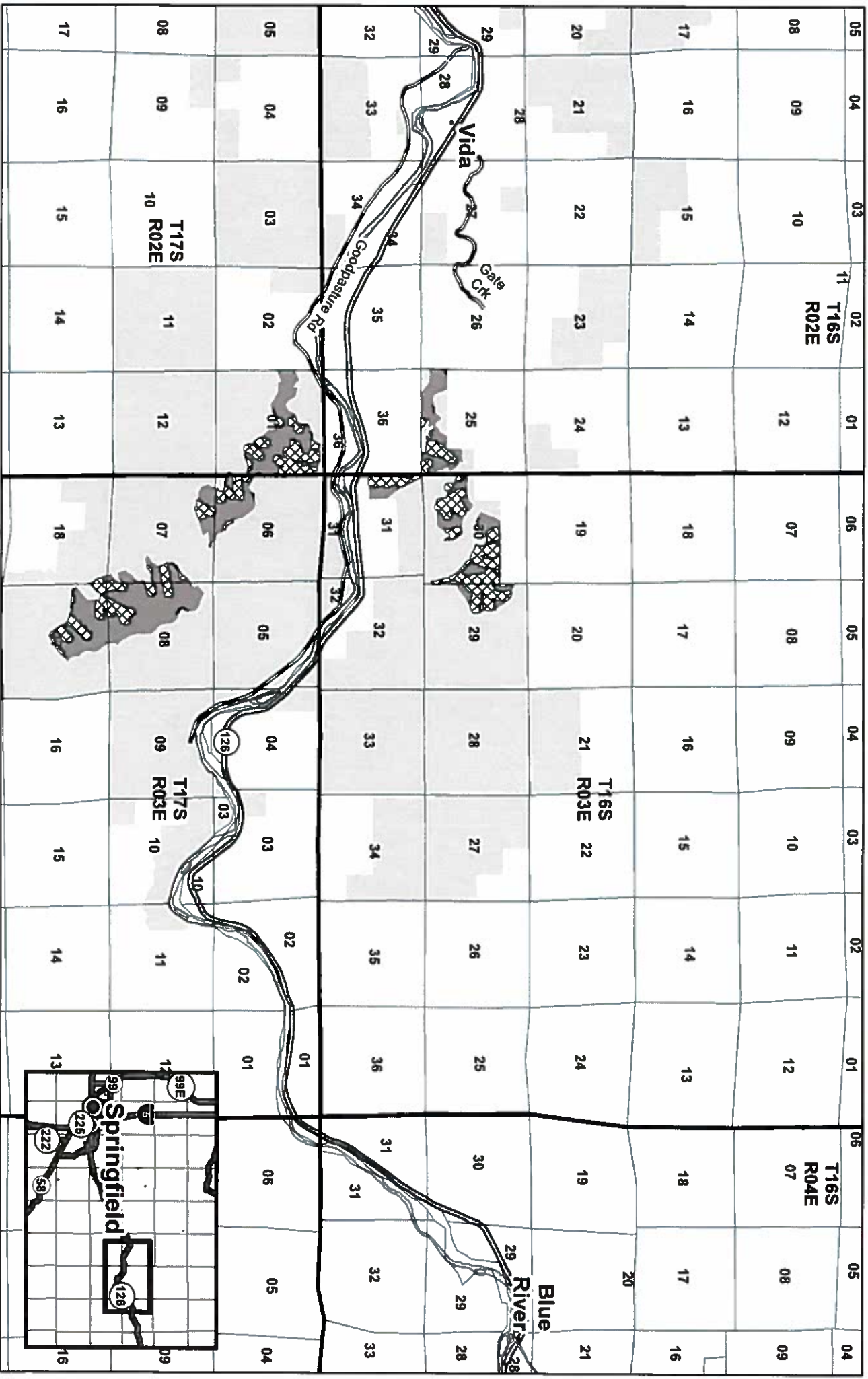
Once an Environmental Assessment has been prepared, the public would be notified again and would have an opportunity to review and provide comments on the proposed action and analysis. For further information, contact Chris Worthington at 541-683-6423.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,

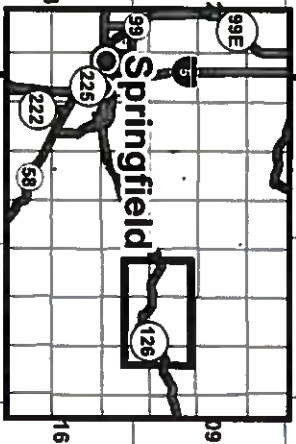


William O'Sullivan  
Field Manager  
Upper Willamette Field Office



- Township
- Section
- River
- Highway
- County Road
- Riparian Reserve
- Proposed Treatment Area
- BLM Ownership

# McKenzie View Project



8/10/2016

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