

Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests Crooked River National Grassland

- ▶ Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests Home
- ▶ About Us
- ▶ Contact Us
- ▶ Current Conditions
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ FAQ'S
- ▶ Fire & Aviation
- ▶ Maps & Brochures
- ▶ Newsroom
- ▶ Passes & Permits

▼ Projects & Plans

Schedule of Proposed Actions

Project Information

Plans, Analyses, Assessments

- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Recreational Activities
- ▶ Volunteering

▶ Newberry National Volcanic Monument

- ▶ Conservation Ed.
- ▶ Contracting
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Forest Products
- ▶ Geology
- ▶ Heritage
- ▶ Partnerships
- ▶ Plantlife
- ▶ Water/Fisheries
- ▶ Wildlife

Projects & Plans

Project Documents

Decision Memo

Deschutes County Lands Fuels Reduction Project

Deschutes National Forest
Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District
Deschutes County, OR

Home



SCHEDULE OF
PROJECTS
PROJECT
INFORMATION

♦ By Administrative Unit

- Deschutes SO
- Bend/Fort Rock
- Crescent
- Sisters
- Ochoco SO
- Lookout Mtn.
- Paulina
- Crooked River NG

♦ Forest Health, Fire, Fuels, Vegetation Management

♦ Wildlife

♦ Recreation

♦ Land Acquisition

♦ Miscellaneous

PLANS, ANALYSES,
ASSESSMENTS

The Deschutes County Lands Fuels Reduction Project is being accomplished through a National Fire Grant to Deschutes County for fuels reduction work to be accomplished by the County. This funding allows federal dollars to be expended on non-federal lands. Part of the requirements for this funding is to complete environmental procedures on non-federal lands. The Bend/Fort Rock

▶ **Links**

▶ **Evaluate Our Service**

We welcome your comments on our service and your suggestions for improvement.

Forest

Deschutes National Forest

1001 SW Emkay Drive
Bend, OR 97702

(541) 383-5300

Ochoco National Forest

3160 N.E. 3rd Street
Prineville, OR 97754

(541) 416-6500

**Crooked River National
Grassland**

813 S.W. Hwy. 97
Madras, OR 97741

(541) 475-9272



Ranger District has been designated to complete the environmental procedures for the Deschutes County Lands Fuels Reduction Project.

Proposed Action

Deschutes County has authorized the thinning of trees and removing slash. All available methods will be considered, as appropriate, to accomplish this project. This will include thinning of dense small diameter stands of trees, mechanical treatment of fuels (chipping), and removal of fuels. The means to accomplish this may be a combination of contracts, county labor, or cooperative agreements. Specific areas may need several types of treatments to accomplish the needed fuels reduction. The final treatments used will depend on input from concerned members of the public.

Project Description

The project involves reducing timber stand density and reduces fuel loading through the use of precommercial thinning, slash removal (chipping), and hauling away by hand and truck. These activities will reduce the risk of stand replacement wildfire and insect or disease losses, while moving the landscape toward more sustainable conditions. The following needs have been identified for the Deschutes County Lands Fuels Reduction Project:

- Reduce fuel loading and fuel ladders to lessen the risk of a large-scale stand replacement wildfire.
- Reduce tree stocking and competition for resources to maintain or increase tree vigor.
- Reduce insect and fire related mortality on late or older successional trees.
- Reduce the risk of loss to private property.

Decision and Reason for Categorical Exclusion

I have reviewed the interdisciplinary environmental analysis and have decided to proceed with the Deschutes County Lands Fuels Reduction Project. The fuels reduction project will treat 142 subdivision lots on approximately 100 acres of Deschutes County owned land. This action falls within the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture's Categorical Exclusion 31.2 (10) Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire, not to exceed 4,500 acres and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres. I find no extraordinary circumstances that might cause the action to have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

Scoping

Scoping was completed by mailing a public scoping letter to adjacent landowners and interested parties on June 25, 2003 and a notice of scoping was published in the local Bend newspaper, The Bulletin for a 6 day period, beginning July 4, 2003.

Appeal Opportunities /Implementation Date

Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.4(b) this decision is not subject to requirements for Notice and Comment. This decision is not subject to appeal, pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215.8(4). This decision may be implemented immediately (36CFR 215.10).

Findings Required By Other Laws and Regulations

The Deschutes County proposed action is compatible with the management direction, including standards and guidelines in Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement documenting the analysis for the Plan. Following the collaborative framework described in the 10-year Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment, August 2001, a collaboration effort with the LaPine Rural Fire

Protection District, Oregon Water Wonderland Homeowner's Association, and Deschutes River Recreation Homesites Owners Association was completed through individuals contacted regarding the project. No significant impact is expected on cultural resources or Endangered or Threatened species. No significant impact is expected on parkland, floodplains, wetlands, prime farmlands, wild and scenic rivers or ecologically critical areas. There are no anticipated significant impacts on consumers, minority groups, American Indians, women or civil rights.

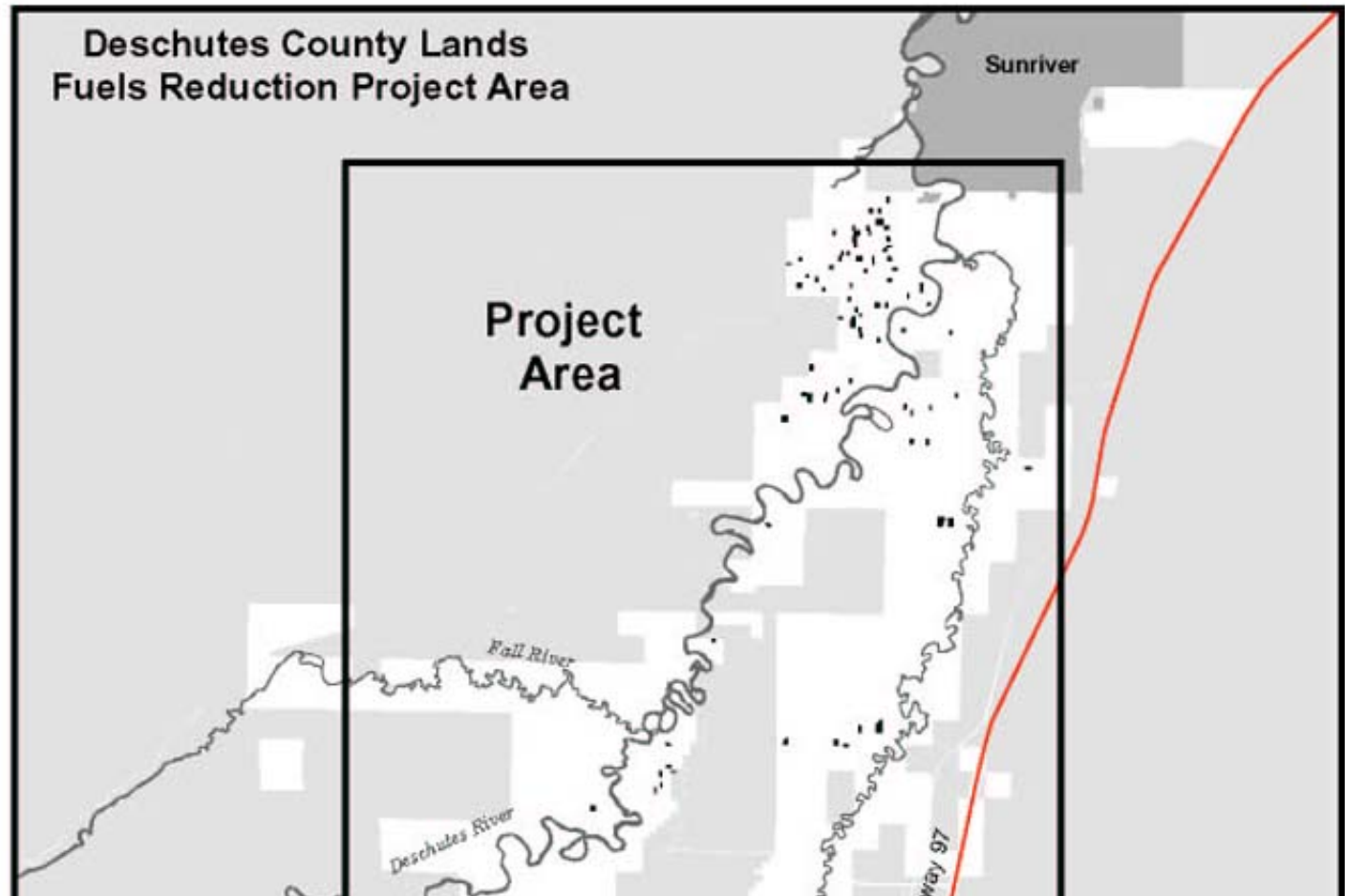
Contact Person

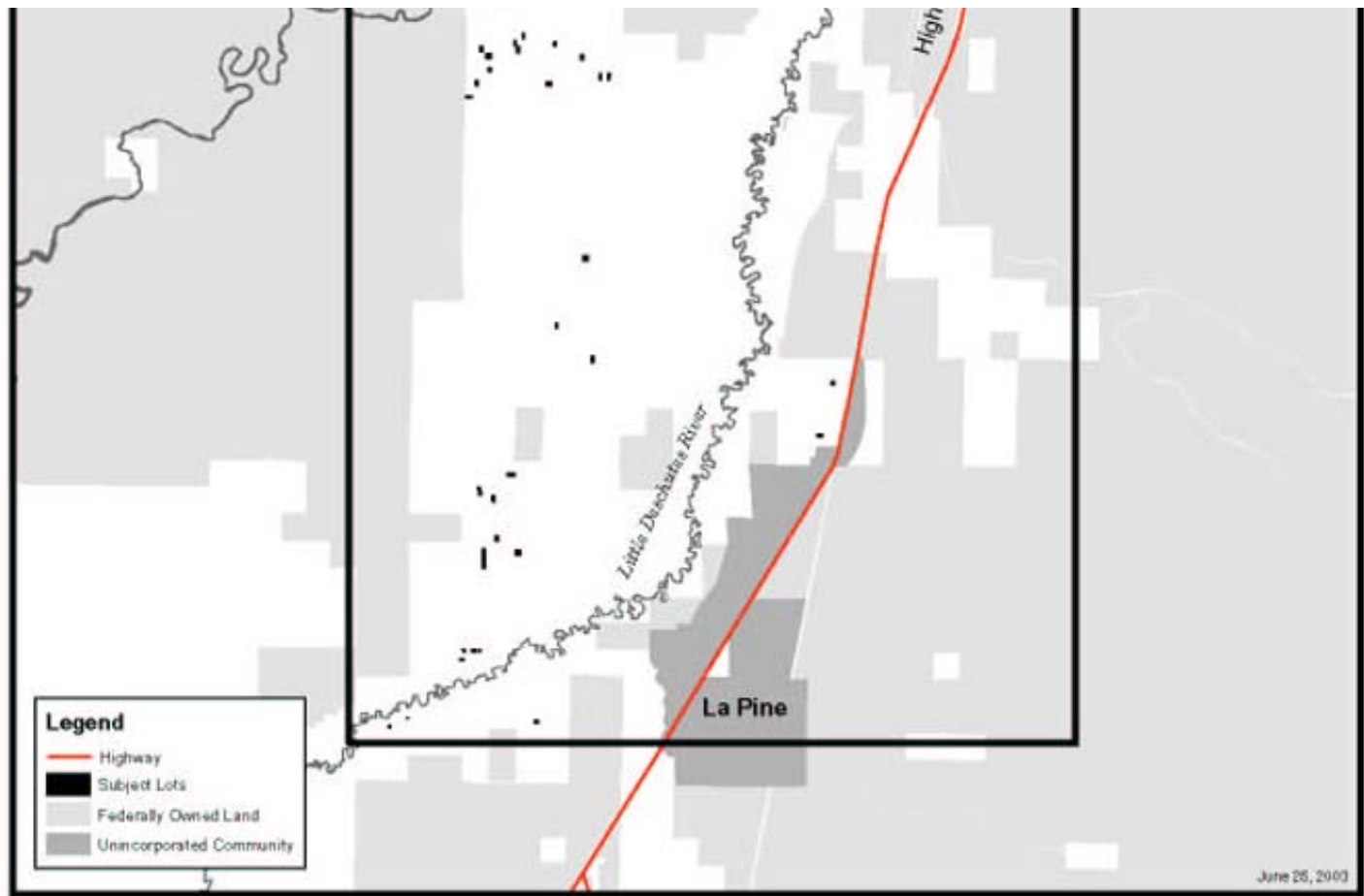
Questions regarding this decision should be directed to Mark Macfarlane, Bend/Fort Rock NEPA Coordinator, Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE 3rd, Bend, OR 97701; telephone 541-383-4000.

Walt Schloer
Bend-Ft. Rock District Ranger

Date

Attachment: Project Plot Maps





[top](#)

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