



# 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>

In Reply Refer to:  
2812(ORM060)

DEC 21 2018

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Medford District, Ashland Field Office is initiating a public scoping period to provide all interested stakeholders with the opportunity to provide input as to whether the BLM should establish a temporary, two-year restriction to recreational target shooting in the Anderson Addition Extensive Recreation Management Area (RMA). The Anderson Addition RMA is located approximately five miles south of Medford, Oregon in Jackson County (Townships 38 and 39 South, Range 2 West), and is often referred to as the Anderson Butte area.

Due to its close proximity to the population centers of Oregon's Rogue Valley, the Anderson Butte area has a long history of local community residents frequently enjoying these public lands for a wide variety of uses, including hiking, horseback riding, hunting, riding off-highway vehicles, and recreational target shooting. As the Rogue Valley's population has continued to increase, so has the recreational use of the Anderson Butte area, as well as increased home construction in close proximity to these public lands. These increasing pressures have resulted in a number of alarming public safety issues and recreational user conflicts from public land visitors participating in a variety of recreational target shooting activities. These activities include shooting both traditional and semi-automatic weapons and using exploding targets, such as tannerite products. There have been numerous instances of these activities resulting in nearby private residences and other private property being hit by bullets and bullets passing over hikers' heads while on designated BLM trails.

The BLM has been actively working over the past three years to improve public safety and address the user conflicts in the Anderson Butte area. These efforts have included increased signage, increased user education contacts by BLM recreation staff, and increased BLM and Jackson County law enforcement patrols. However, public safety issues and recreational user conflicts are still occurring in the Anderson Butte area, including a life-threatening situation in November 2018. A vast majority of the public safety and recreational user conflicts that are occurring in the Anderson Butte area are a result of unsafe shooting practices, including shooting from exposed ridgetops with no backstop, shooting across and in close proximity to designated recreational trails, sites and facilities, and shooting across and in close proximity to private property and roads. The BLM remains committed to maintaining access to safe and legal opportunities to participate in recreational target shooting activities on America's public lands, and will be seeking to establish the smallest possible temporary restriction to target shooting that

will adequately address the existing and potential public safety issues and recreational user conflicts in the Anderson Butte area.

### **How to stay involved**

The BLM will consider the input submitted as a part of this public scoping period to develop a proposed restriction to recreational target shooting as a part of the Anderson Butte Safety Project Environmental Assessment (EA), which will be developed in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and all other applicable laws, regulations, and Executive and Secretarial Orders involving access to shooting sports on Federal lands. Any proposed restriction to target shooting would remain in place for two years, during which time the BLM will continue to collaborate with all interested stakeholders to develop a longer-term solution to address the public safety issues and recreational user conflicts in the area. The proposed restriction would not affect the public's ability to legally hunt in conformance with State law on any BLM lands.

We would like to hear from you regarding any issues or concerns you may have that we should consider in the development of this project. Your input will be most useful if it is received by **February 1, 2019**. Please send your comments via the following methods:

#### **Mail**

BLM – Ashland Field Office  
Attention: Kristi Mastrofini  
3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504

#### **Email**

BLM\_OR\_MD\_Mail@blm.gov  
(RE: Anderson Butte Safety Project)

Information on the proposed project is also available by calling Kristi Mastrofini at 541-618-2438 or Joel Brumm at 541-618-2256. If you do not have comments at this time, but would like to be kept informed as planning progresses on this project, please complete and return the enclosed "Interest Response Form" and your name will be maintained on the mailing list for this project. All interested stakeholders will be provided with another opportunity to provide input into the Anderson Butte Safety Project EA before any BLM decisions about whether to restrict target shooting are finalized, and those responding to this or other public notices concerning the EA will be notified accordingly.

*Please note that all written submissions from private individuals in response to this notice, including your name, address, telephone number, email address, or other personal identifying information may be made available for public inspection and disclosure, unless you specifically request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your personal identifying information from public review or disclosure, you must state this at the beginning of your written comment. We will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law, but you should be aware that release of that information may be required under certain circumstances. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organization or business will be made available for public inspection and disclosure in their entirety.*

Thank you for your interest in you public lands, we look forward to working with you throughout the development of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristi Mastrofini". The signature is written in a cursive style. To the right of the signature, the word "Acting" is written in a similar cursive script.

Kristi Mastrofini  
Field Manager  
Ashland Field Office

Enclosures:  
Map  
Interest Response Form