1. A scoping letter for the CSNM Hazardous Fuels Reduction Demonstration Project in the Wildland Urban Interface went out to the public on October 27, 2008, and the scoping period was open for comments until November 28, 2008. The BLM was proposing fuels treatments on 91 acres within the identified in the wildland urban interface. The BLM hosted a field trip to the area on November 1, 2008. The BLM published an environmental assessment for the project on May 13, 2009, and accepted comments until June 30, 2009

The BLM received one comment letter from Oregon Wild support the non-commercial fuels treatment project with ideas about how to accomplish the work.

The BLM also received a comment letter from Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, the Wilderness Society and KS Wild dated June 15, 2009. Both did not like the BLM's Proposed Action and felt that fuels treatments in national monuments needed to meet a higher standard and needed a more science-based revision. They thought as a demonstration project, it would set a precedent across the CSNM on how we treat fuels. They thought the EA should be revised to incorporate "credible science" and should consider alternatives to just cutting vegetative materials in the CSNM. Also they felt that based on Cohen 2000 and Kennedy 2006, that the best way to protect private property was to do fuels treatments around the structures (200 ft). They said we should have had an alternative that focused on treatment of private property. They said we failed to demonstrate the project was consistent with ecological restoration.

Following receipt of the comments BLM proposed a meeting with the commenters to discuss the fuels treatment project. They were receptive to a meeting, but advised us to carefully read the comments. Based on further conversations, BLM decided not to issue a decision on this EA. BLM began additional work to show that surrounding private land owners had completed fuels treatments and hired a local scientist to conduct some fire history analysis for the BLM with the thought that a revised EA would be issued that demonstrated BLM's proposal was to add onto work already completed in the community and that to provide a proposal that was accepted as being scientifically credible. The BLM was never able to complete a revised EA for this project due to funding issues.

2. BLM signed the Hyatt Lake Recreation Area/Road Clearing and Hazard Tree Removal Categorical Exclusion on March 13, 2015. The BLM proposed removing approximately 45 trees (29 MBF) within the Hyatt Lake Campground and the East Hyatt Lake Road that were blown down from a storm event that passed through the area in February 2015. The trees were removed to provide safety on roads and in the campground as well as to stabilize of the road system and the functionality of the associated drainage features.

3. A scoping letter went out on May 28, 2013, and comments were accepted until July 1, 2013, for the pine plantation thinning project. A public field tour was held June 7, 2013. BLM hired Tom Atzet, a retired U.S. Forest Service ecologist to evaluate all the plantations within the CSNM to determine which ones needed treatment to move them onto a trajectory towards stand/species diversity and accelerate their development into older stands faster. The BLM has been working on this project, however, the site-specific prescriptions for the plantations selected for treatment were not completed until July 2016. The EA for this project has been drafted, but other competing work and lack of staff has delayed the project.

4. You have let us know that BLM has one timber sale in process and one just started cutting. Can you please give more information on who purchased the sales, how much volume will be harvested, and a map of the sales? Are they inside the expansion area?

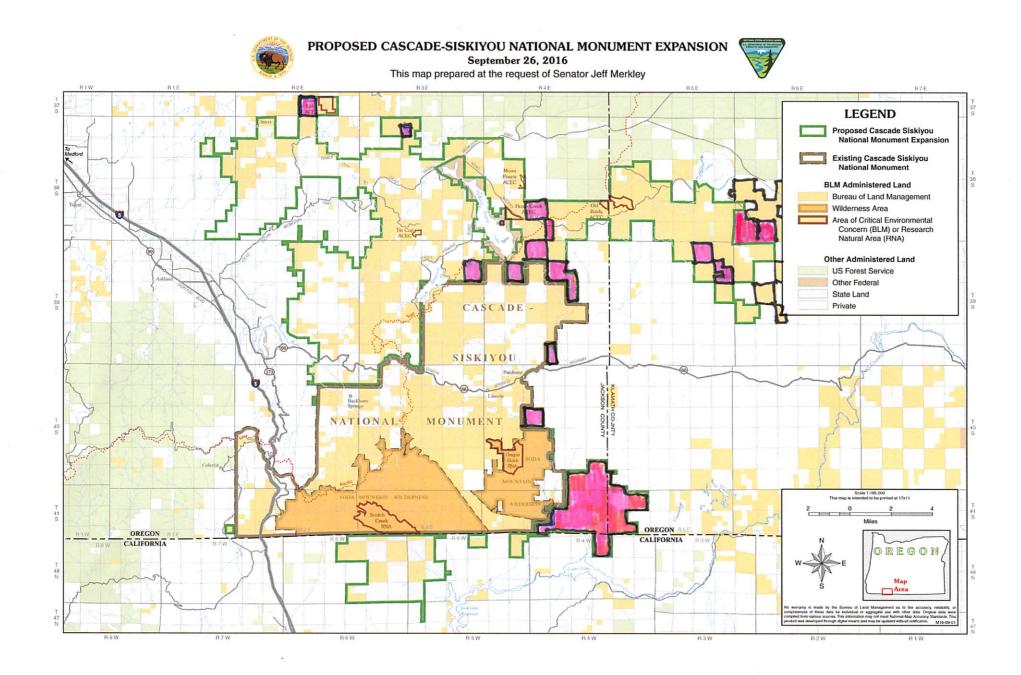
South Fork Little Butte: Boise Cascade Wood Products LLC - 9,935 MBF

Howard: Murphy Company - 3,355 MBF

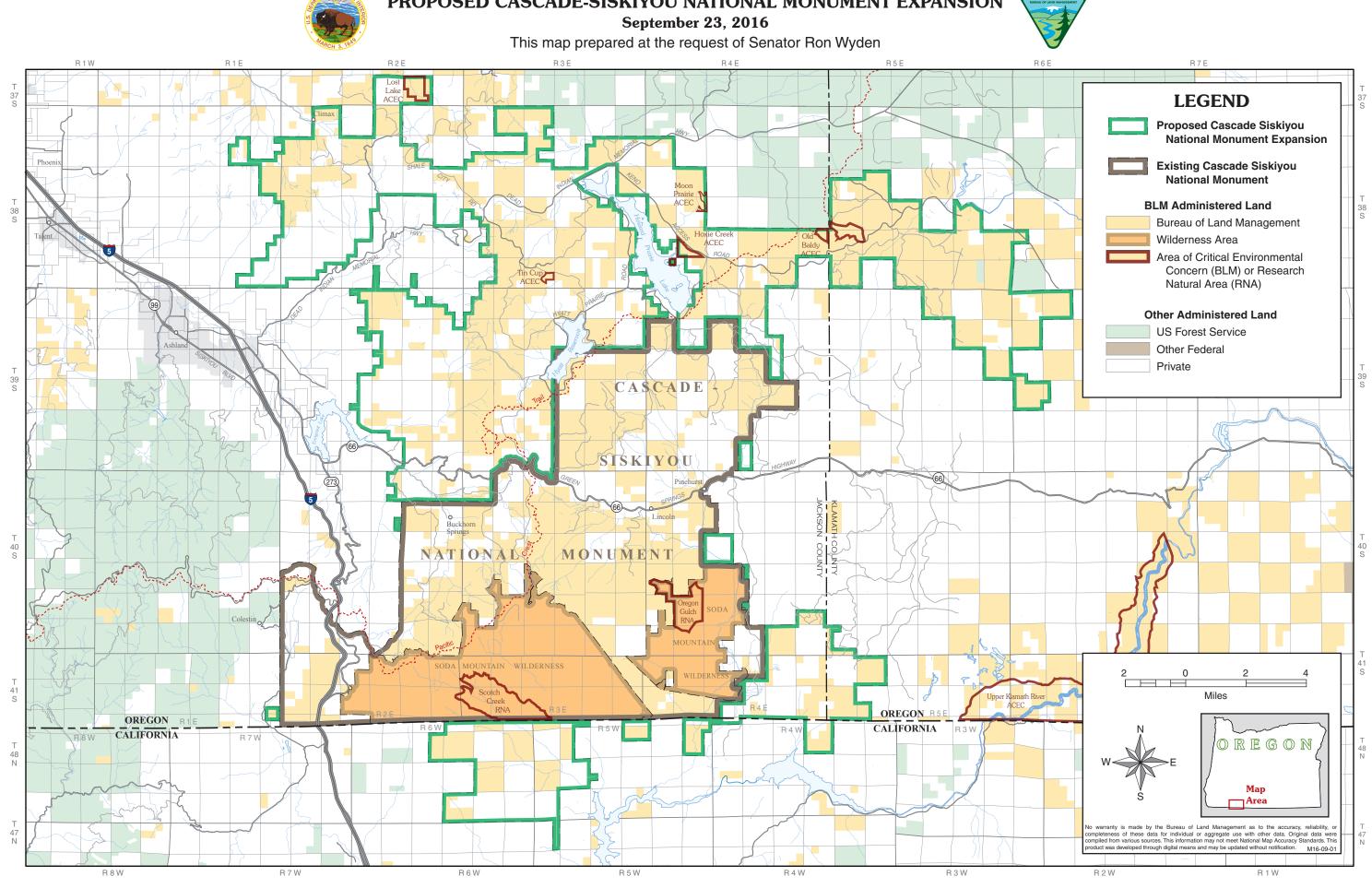
The Medford District is in the process of developing a map to depict these sales.

5) Do counties get any revenue from restoration forestry project inside the CSNM?

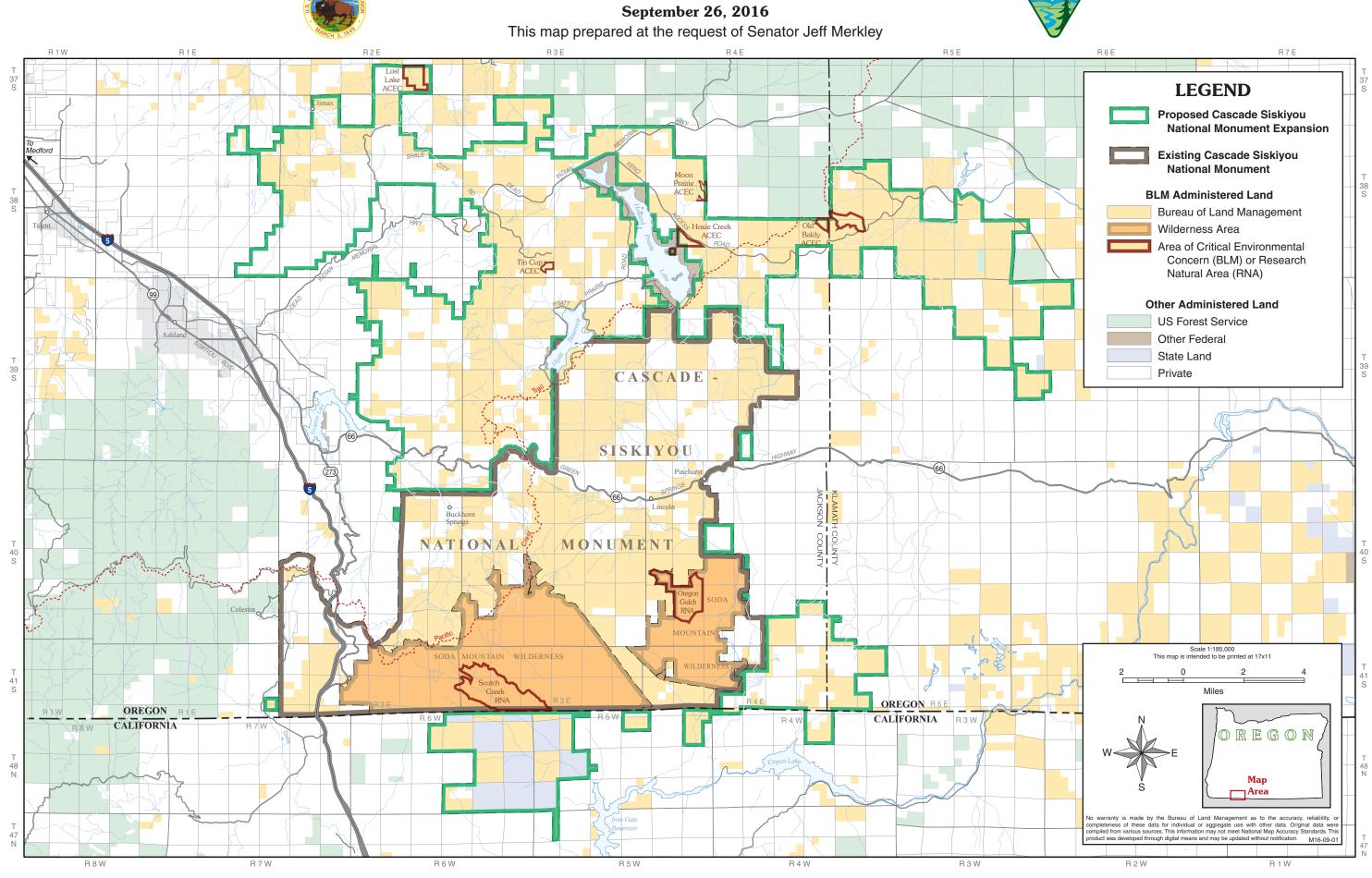
The proclamation states that commercial timber harvest can only occur as part of an authorized science-based ecological restoration project. It also says that no part of the monument should be used to calculate sustained yield. In other words no volume removed can count towards ASQ.



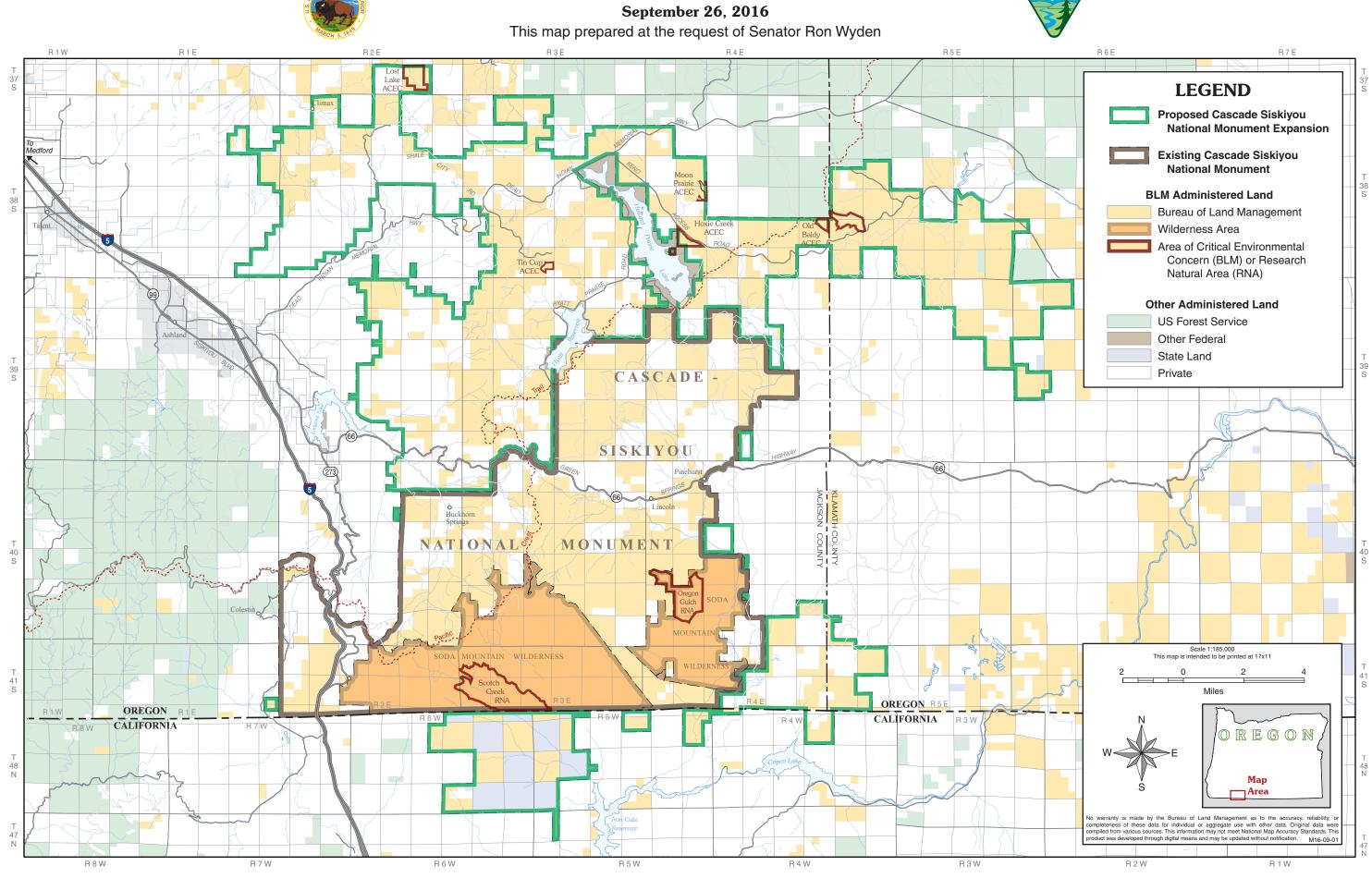




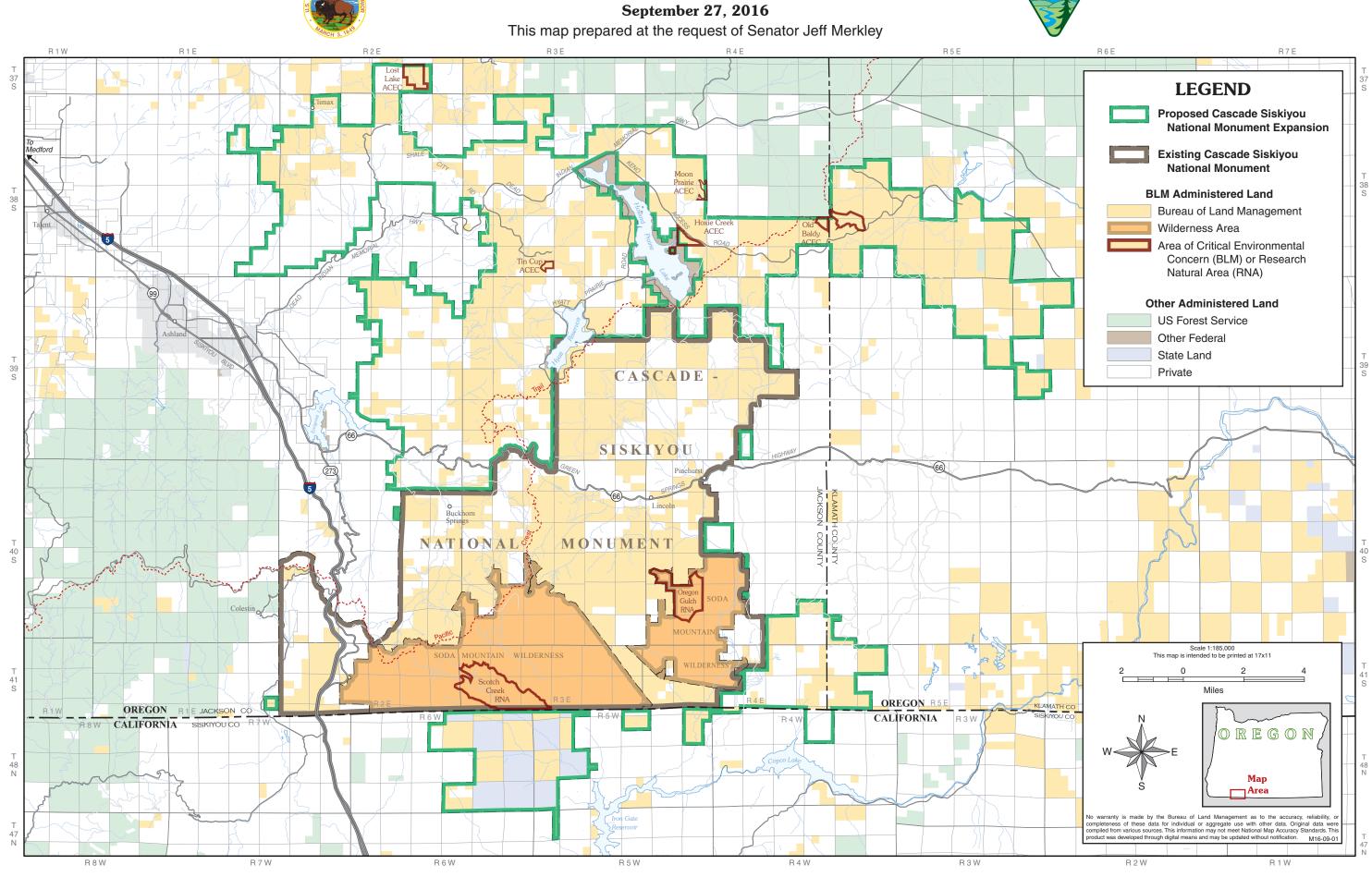




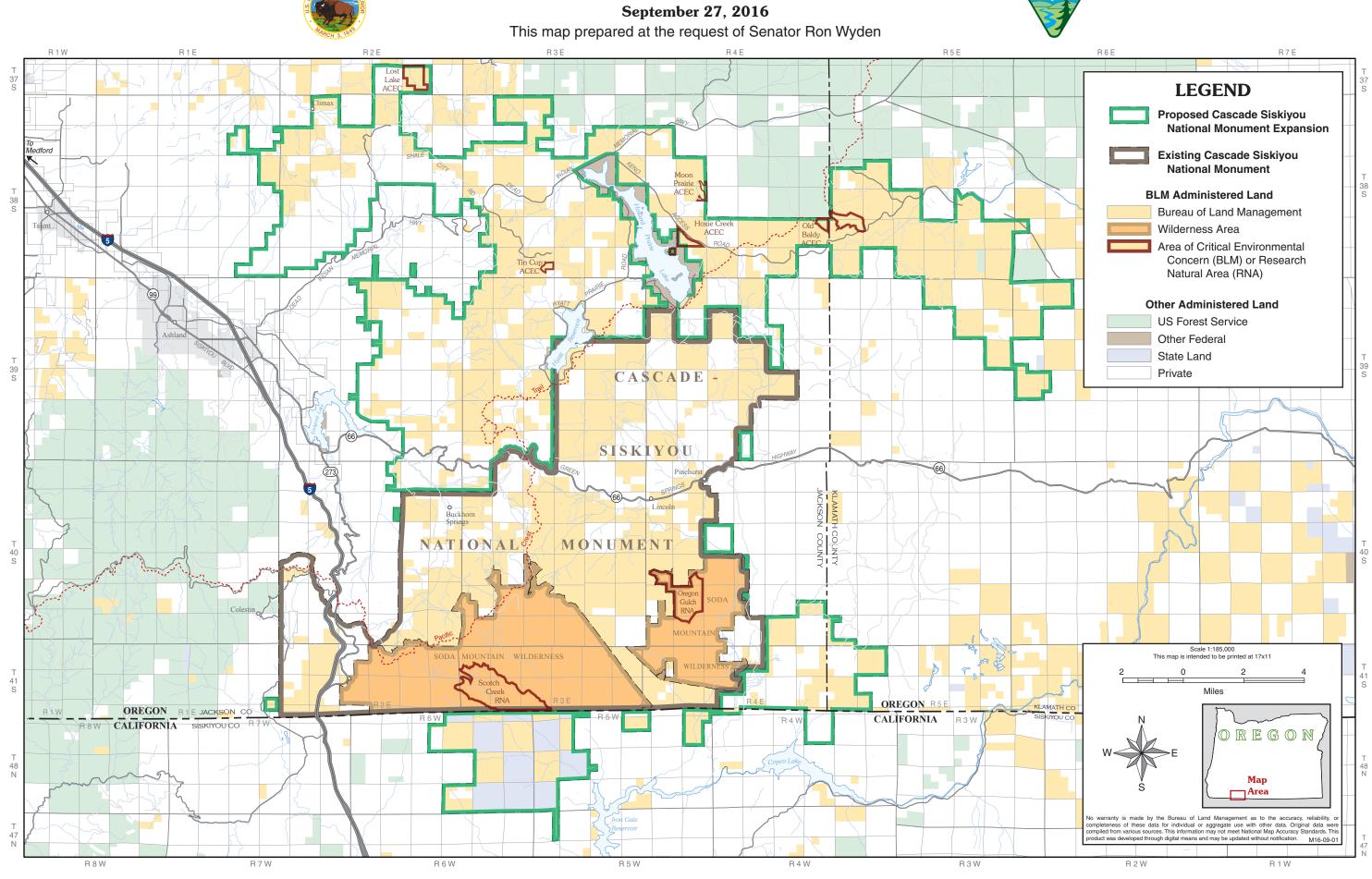






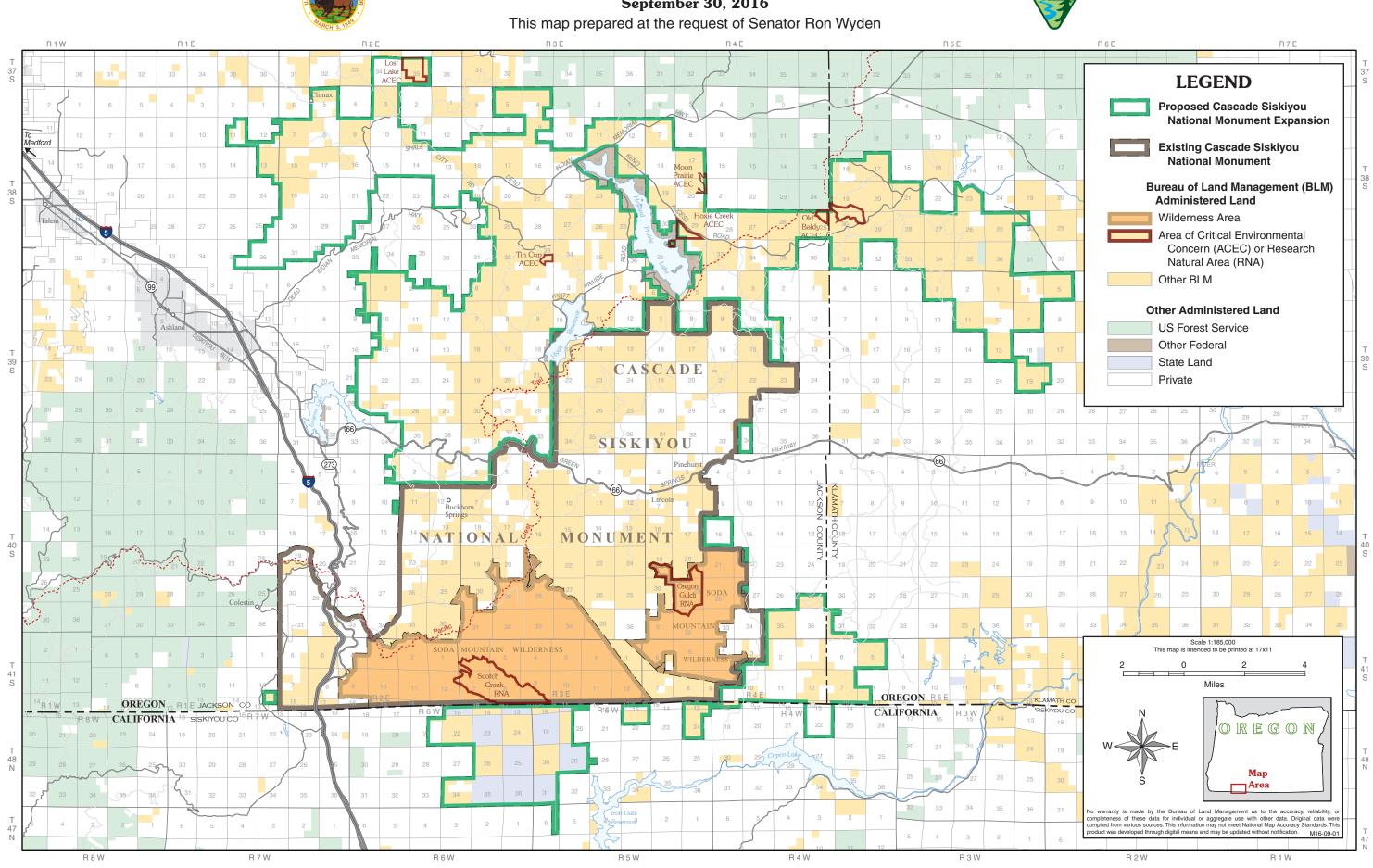






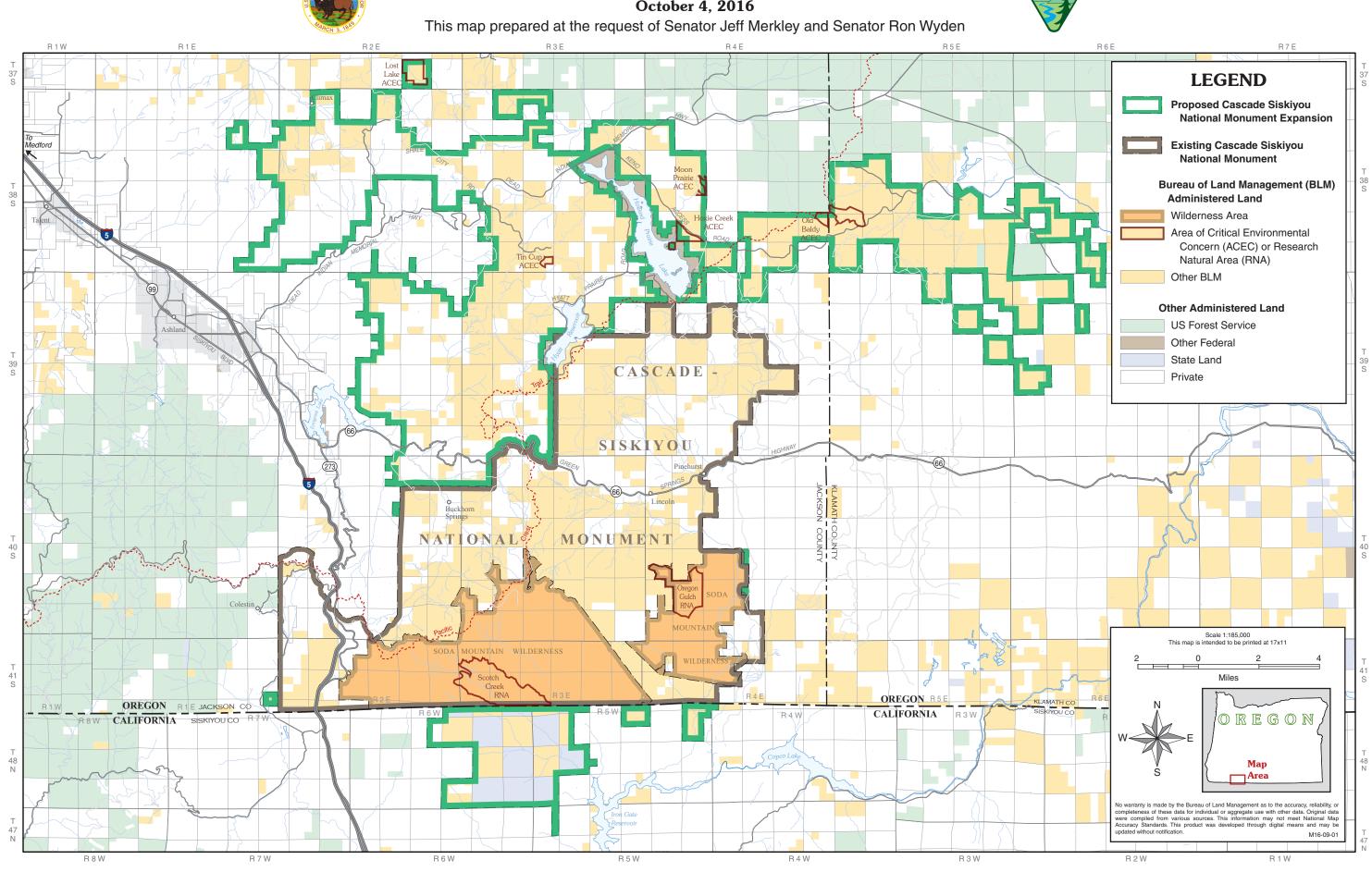


September 30, 2016



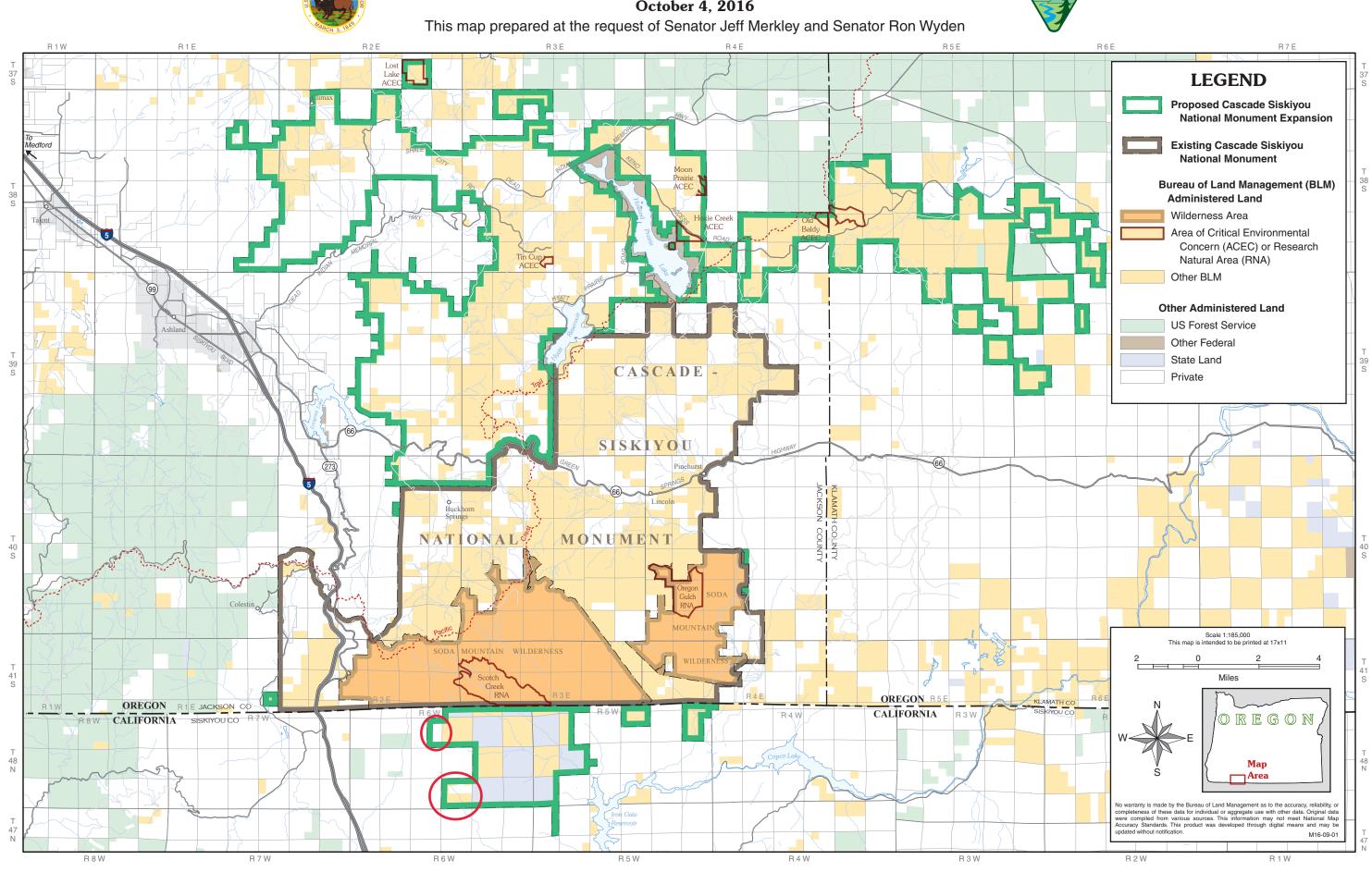


October 4, 2016



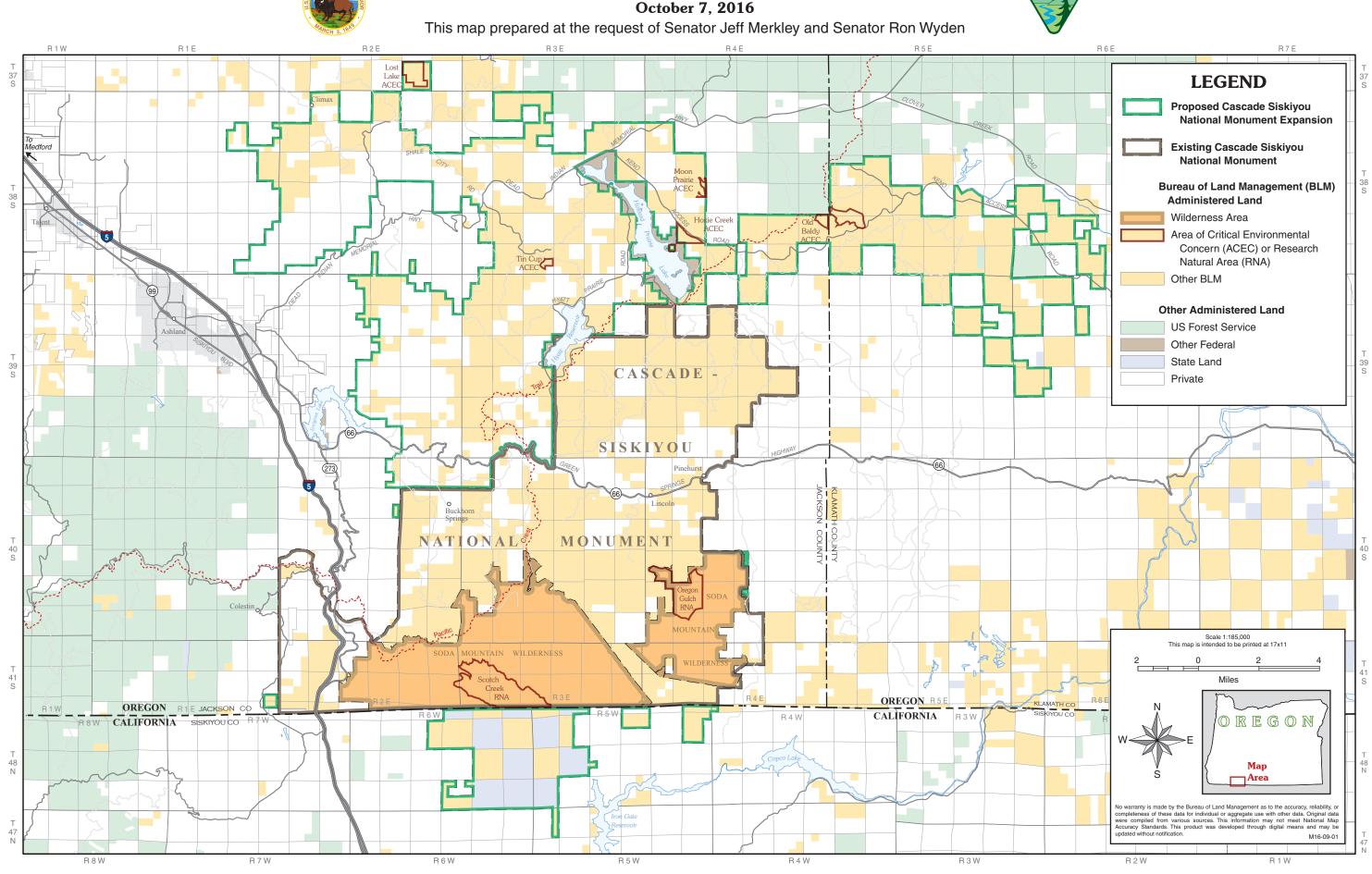


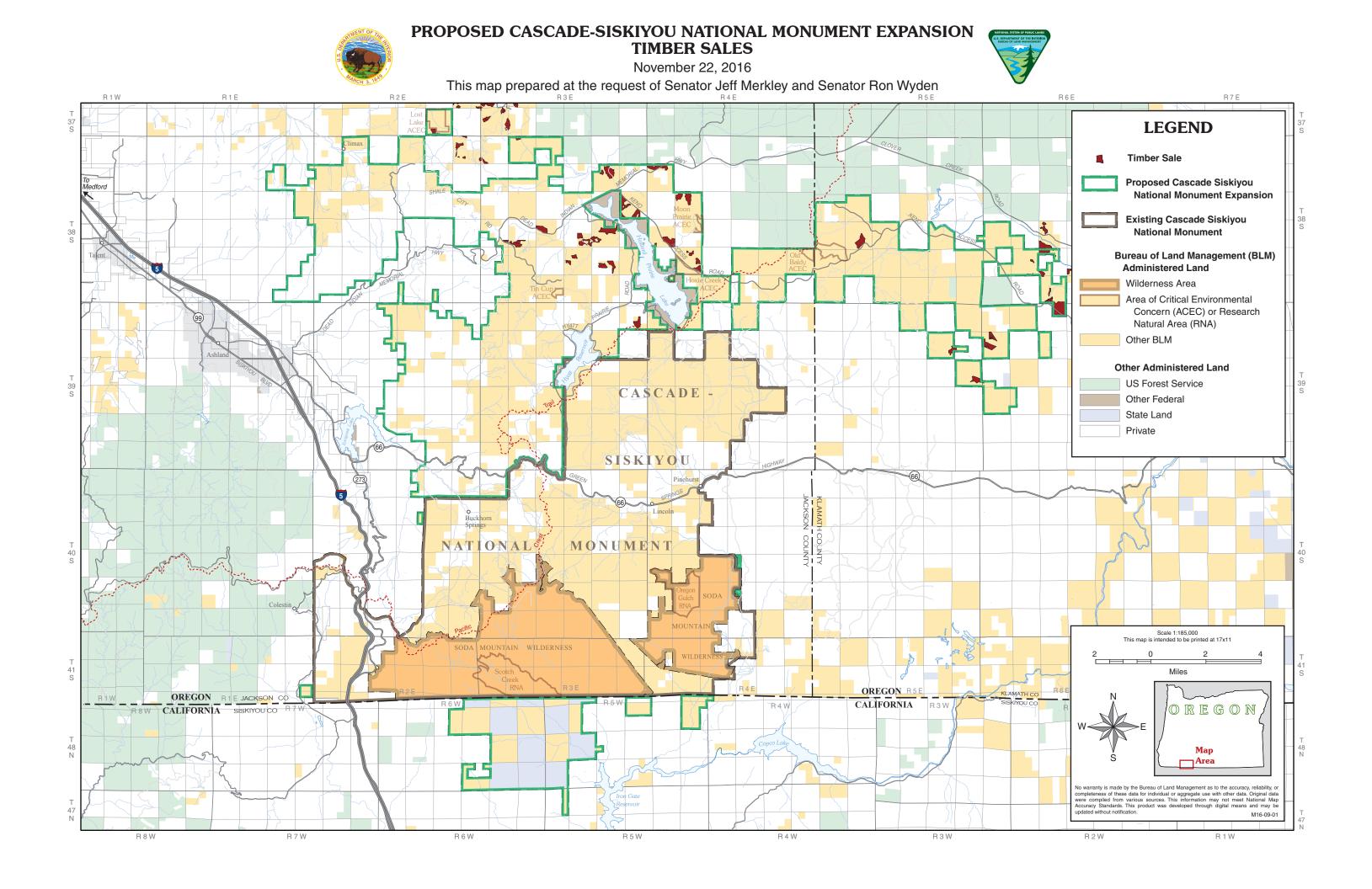
October 4, 2016





October 7, 2016





AGENCY	OREGON	CALIFORNIA	
BLM		57371	5071
USFS		121	0
BOR		169	0
STATE		0	4916
PRIVATE/UNKNOWN		44431	1300
		102092	11288

TOTAL

62442	
121	
169	
4916	
45731	
113380	

AGENCY	OREGON	CALIFORNIA	
BLM		61253	4966
USFS		121	0
STATE		0	4916
PRIVATE/OTHER		44431	575
		105804	11288

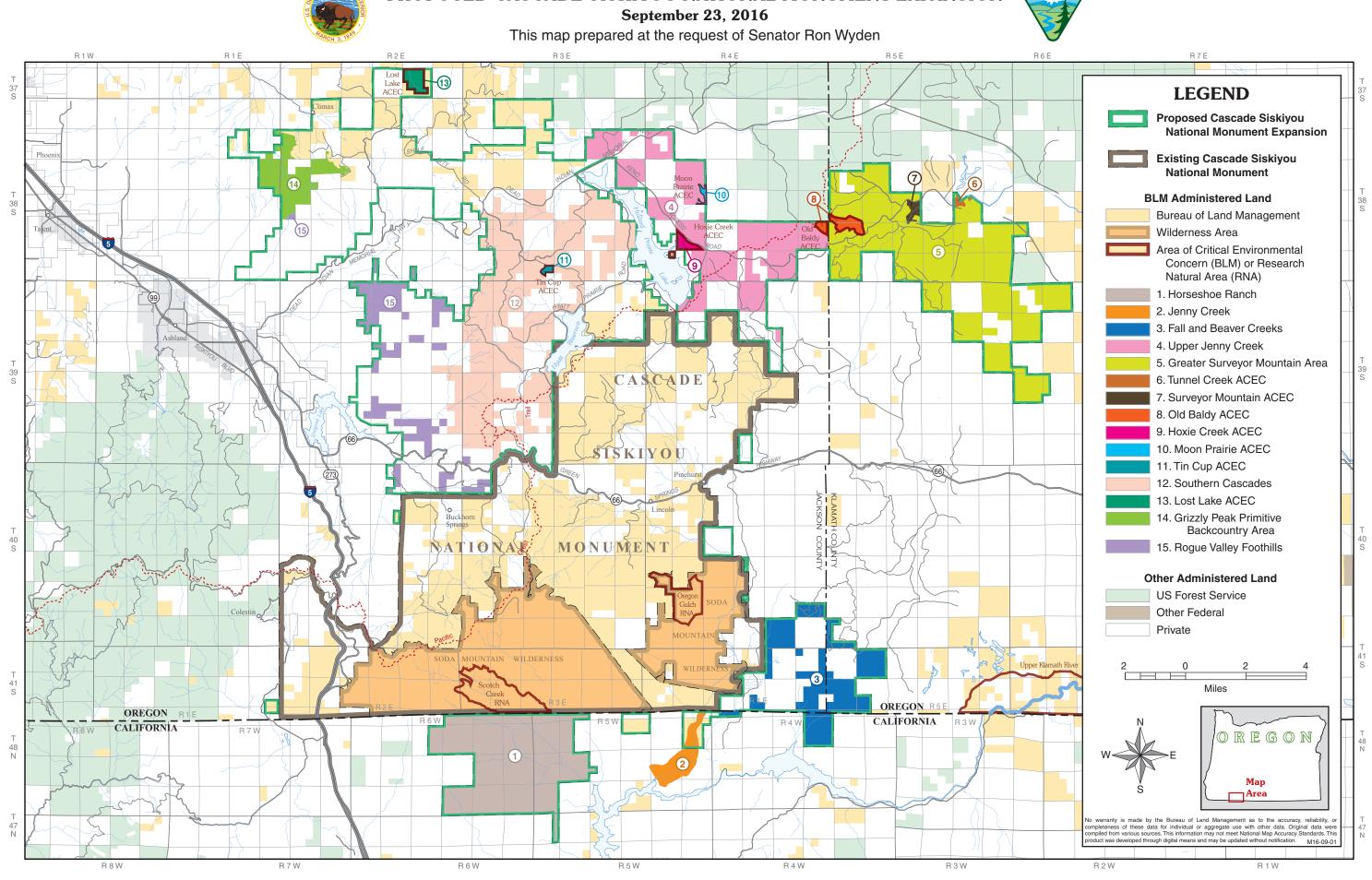
TOTAL

AGENCY	OREGON	CALIFORNIA
BLM/OREGON & CALIFORNIA	53454	۰ (
BLM/PUBLIC DOMAIN	2791	5088
BLM/ACQUIRED	(	) 149
USFS	121	0
STATE	C	) 4916
PRIVATE/OTHER	33962	2 133
	90328	3 10286

#### TOTAL

53454
7879
149
121
4916
34095
100613

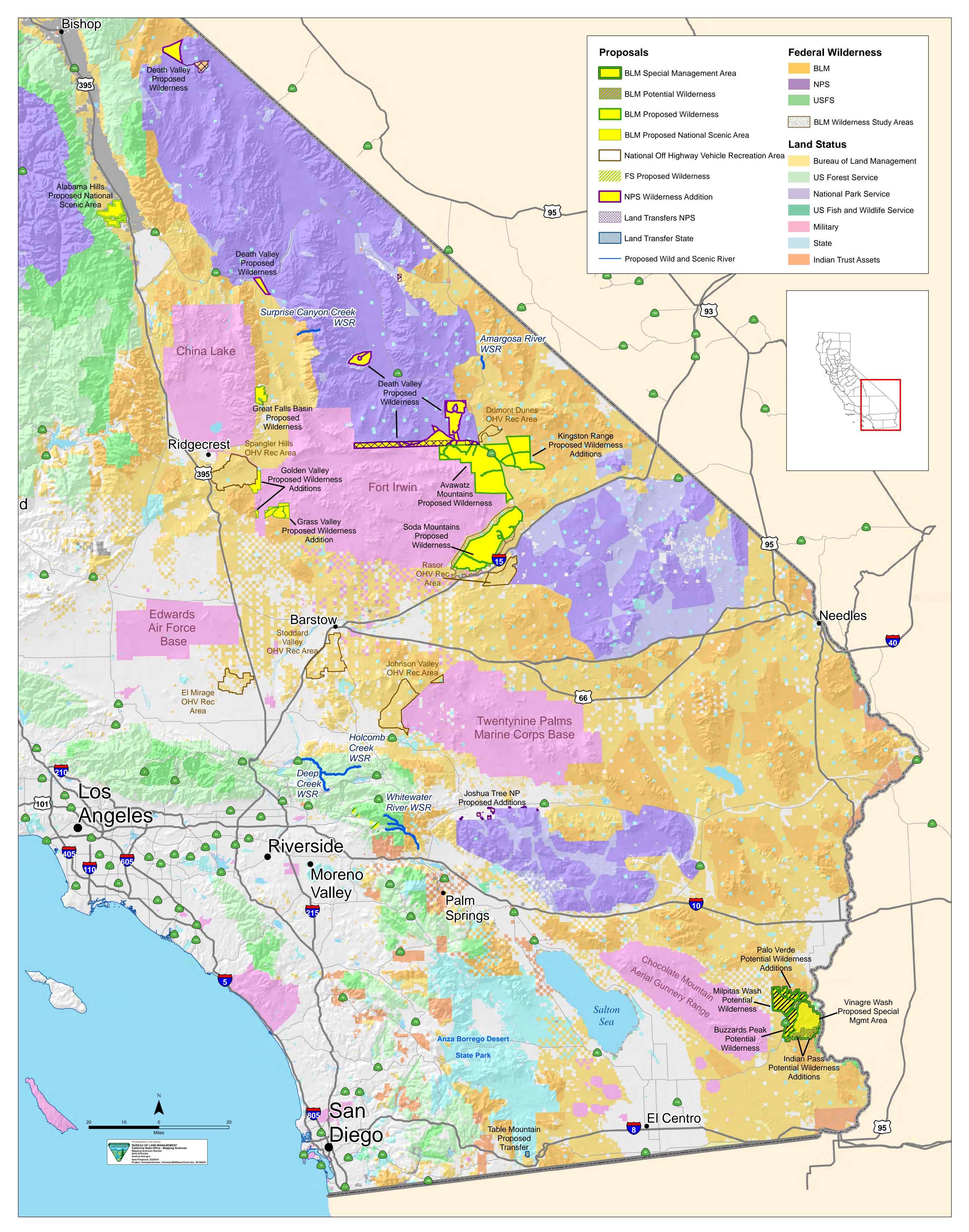




# **2016 California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act Overview**

February 2, 2016

## This map prepared at the request of Senator Dianne Feinstein



#### MAP GUIDANCE— PROPOSED CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPANSION SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

This map is being prepared at the request of Senator Jeff Merkley. This map and its contents should be <u>treated confidentially</u>. The map may not be shared without explicit approval from Jamie Pool in the Washington Office (202-912-7138).

### All new versions of maps must have a new date.

Using the shapefiles included with this guidance, please develop a new map displaying the proposed Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion:

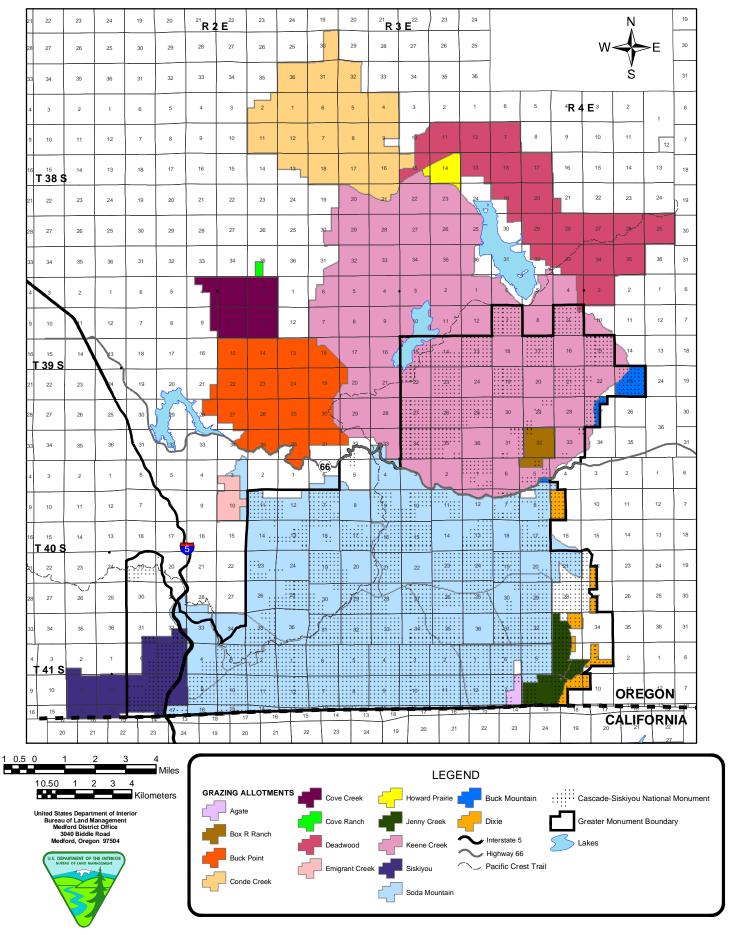
- 1. Title of the new map: Proposed Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Expansion.
- 2. Date: Below the title, add the date the map was created.
- 3. Below the date, include the following statement: This map prepared at the request of Senator Jeff Merkley. This can be in a smaller font than the title and the date.

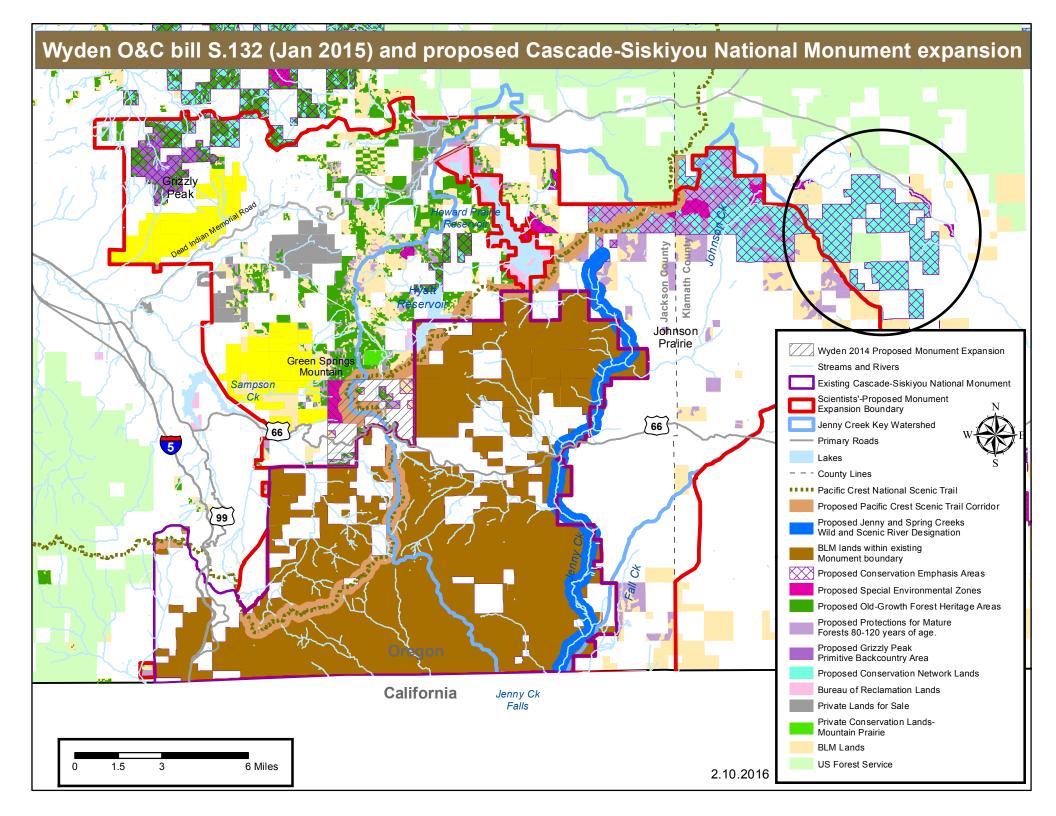
Please also include the following information:

- 4. In yellow with a green border, please depict the proposed expansion area based on the shapefiles included with this guidance. Please label the expansion area on the map and in the legend as "BLM Proposed Monument Expansion". If the expansion area includes lands currently managed by multiple agencies, please identify them separately in the legend and on the map (e.g., "BLM Proposed Monument Expansion", "USFS Proposed Monument Expansion", etc.) and use different colored borders.
- 5. Land status (standard colors).
- 6. Township and Range indicators and section lines.
- 7. A scale indicator. Please also include the size at which the map is intended to be plotted, in this case probably 34x44.
- 8. Roads, cities and towns, streams (but not ephemeral streams), reservations, state boundaries, county boundaries and names, and military installations, if applicable.
- 9. Please do not include vegetation indications, shaded relief, or topo.
- 10. Please include any special designations, including wilderness (in bright yellow), WSAs, Wild and Scenic Rivers (in thick blue), NCAs, National Monuments, National Scenic and Historic Trails, ACECs, or other existing special designations.

Feel free to call if you have any questions or if there's anything about this request that doesn't make sense. Thank you very much!

### Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Livestock Grazing Allotments





### Answers to Senator Merkley's Questions on the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

### **1.** Summary of road closures inside the current monument. Number of miles closed with percentage of total?

CSNM within the Soda Mountain Wilderness:

• There were approximately 80 miles of road prior to the proclamation establishing the monument.

<u>Closed</u>

• Approximately 75 miles were closed by the presidential proclamation or by the CSNM ROD/RMP (2008).

Decommissioned

• The *Soda Mountain Wilderness Final Stewardship Plan* (2012) approved actively decommissioning 23 miles of road. The remainder of the former transportation system would be left as is to naturally decommission (natural revegetation) over time.

CSNM outside the Soda Mountain Wilderness:

- There are approximately 412 miles of road.
- The CSNM Draft Transportation Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (March 2016) is currently out for public review until November 18, 2016.
- Proposed alternatives range from approximately 6 to 164 miles of decommissioning (full recontour, decommission/spot recontour, decommission, or passive decommission).
- Of the roads proposed for some form of decommissioning, roughly 40 percent are currently inaccessible to the public as they are overgrown or eroded, already blocked, or not drivable.
- Once the transportation plan is fully implemented, the remaining road network would range from approximately 285 miles (69% of existing) to 407 miles (99% of existing), depending on which alternative is selected.

### 2. Grazing permits:

### a) Grazing permit history since proclamation. Has BLM retired grazing permits?

The Proclamation (2000) establishing the CSNM directed the Secretary of the Interior to "...study the impacts of livestock grazing on the objects of biological interest in the monument with specific attention to sustaining the natural ecosystem dynamics." At the time of the designation, 11 ranchers held grazing leases for 2,714 active animal unit months (AUMs) on seven active grazing allotments. There were also two vacant allotments that are now closed. Five of the seven are administered by the Medford District and the other two are administered by the Klamath Falls Field Office. The current status of the allotments within the CSNM is in the table below.

#### **CSNM Allotments as of October 2016**

Allotment	Lessee	Status as of October 2016
Soda Mountain	(b) (6)	Closed
Keene Creek		Closed
		010000
Jenny Creek	Taylor Ranch – <mark>(b) (6)</mark>	Closed
Dixie	Tracie Gibson	Active
Buck Mountain	Mark Holliday	Active
Box R	Donald Rowlett	Closed
Deadwood	Lee Bradshaw	Active
Agate	Vacant	Closed
Siskiyou	Vacant	Closed

The Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-011) allowed for the voluntary donation of grazing leases within and adjacent to the monument. Apart from the Omnibus Act, a third party conservation group offered lessees a buyout to donate their leases in accordance with the Omnibus Act. Three leases within the CSNM were relinquished as a result of this third party buyout. The BLM was not involved or privy to these buyout negotiations.

### b) Does BLM have any information on how ranchers have been treated through the voluntary buy-out program?

No. As stated above, the BLM was not involved in the lease buyouts or any negotiations that led to the retirement of leases.

### c) How many grazing permits are in the expansion area and when do they come up for renewal. A map with permittee's names would be helpful.

ALLOTMENTS	<b>#LESSEES</b>	#LEASES	LEASE EXP	LEASE
			DATE	HOLDER
Deadwood	2	2	2026	Lee Bradshaw
			2025	B&J Luscombe
Conde Creek	2	2	2018	Eugene Stanley
			2025	B&J Luscombe
Grizzly	1	2	2020	BbarK Cascade
			2020	Ranch
Howard Prairie	1	1	2022	Lee Bradshaw
Cove Creek	1	1	2022	James Miller
North Cove Ck	1	1	2019	Jesse Rabjohn
Cove Ranch	1	1	2019	James Miller

TOTAL	6	10	

d) Is BLM familiar with the two ranchers who claimed to be forced out of grazing permits on existing monument: (b) (6) and the and the Bradshaw from Eagle Point (Lee may be a permittee in the expansion area?). If yes, please provide information on what happened with their grazing permits. If they are in the expansion area, please just let us know. We are not asking what might happen in the future.

The BLM is aware that (b) (6) voluntarily relinquished his lease within the monument and does not have a grazing lease in the proposed monument expansion area. Lee Bradshaw did not relinquish his lease and does have a lease in the proposed expansion.

#### 3. Timber sales/volume

### a) What is in the pipeline?

Timber planning has only recently been implemented under the new 2016 Southwest Oregon Resource Management Plan. The expansion includes the most reliable and productive timber stands for the BLM's Ashland Resource Area in the Medford District. Considering the new RMP's harvest land base and an average volume per acre for a variety of prescription types achieved on recent timber sales within the proposal boundaries, a rough estimate of future timber production in the Medford portion of the expansion area is approximately 1.6 MMBF annually for the next 50 years.

### b) Please provide a map of current and pending sales.

Attached is a map of current sales.

### c) How much timber volume has been cut under the current monument's allowance for timber aimed at ecosystem restoration and fire management?

No ecosystem restoration or fire management projects have been engaged to date.

### d) Was any O&C land taken into the current monument boundary?

Yes, a total of 40,155 acres of O&C land was included in the original boundary.

### Answers to Senator Merkley's Questions on the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

### **1.** Summary of road closures inside the current monument. Number of miles closed with percentage of total?

CSNM within the Soda Mountain Wilderness:

- There were approximately 80 miles of road prior to the proclamation establishing the monument.
- Approximately 75 miles were previously closed by the presidential proclamation or by the CSNM ROD/RMP (2008).
- 47 miles of road had been approved in the 2008 CSNM ROD/RMP for decommissioning (returned to natural features), but the work, sometimes requiring heavy equipment, was not completed prior to the 2009 SMW designation.
- The *Soda Mountain Wilderness Final Stewardship Plan* (2012) approved actively decommissioning 23 miles of road. The remainder of the former transportation system would be left as is to naturally decommission (natural revegetation) over time.

CSNM outside the Soda Mountain Wilderness:

- There are approximately 412 miles of road.
- The CSNM Draft Transportation Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (March 2016) is currently out for public review until November 18, 2016.
- Proposed alternatives range from approximately 6 to 164 miles of decommissioning (full recontour, decommission/spot recontour, decommission, or passive decommission).
- One alternative includes turning 4.95 miles of road to a trail.
- Of the roads proposed for some form of decommissioning, roughly 40 percent are currently inaccessible to the public as they are overgrown or eroded, already blocked, or not drivable.
- Once the transportation plan is fully implemented, the remaining road network would range from approximately 285 miles (69% of existing) to 407 miles (99% of existing), depending on which alternative is selected.

### 2. Grazing permits:

### a) Grazing permit history since proclamation. Has BLM retired grazing permits?

The Proclamation (2000) establishing the CSNM directed the Secretary of the Interior to "...study the impacts of livestock grazing on the objects of biological interest in the monument with specific attention to sustaining the natural ecosystem dynamics." At the time of designation, 11 ranchers held grazing leases for 2,714 active animal unit months (AUMs) on nine grazing allotments within the monument, with an additional two allotments vacant.

Extensive public and scientific peer review went into the formation of the Plan for Studying the Impacts of Livestock Grazing on the Objects of Biological Interest (2005). The BLM continually briefed local elected officials and Congressional staff on the process. The BLM hosted multiple field trips and held meetings with interested parties, including the Jackson County Natural Resources Advisory Committee, which formed an advisory group to provide the Medford District BLM with input on the studies. The National Center for Conservation Science and Policy, the Southwest Oregon Provincial Advisory Committee and scientists for Oregon State University assisted and advised BLM throughout the process.

The 19 studies identified in the study plan (2005) were summarized in nine papers. The Medford District released the findings of the CSNM Livestock Impacts Studies on January 24, 2008.

The results of the livestock studies were used to make an overall assessment of the monument's livestock allotments and evaluate whether or not the allotments were meeting the Oregon Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health, and to determine whether or not the livestock grazing that was occurring at the time was compatible with "protecting the objects of biological interest" as required by the monument proclamation. In July 2008, the BLM released the Rangeland Health Assessments (RHAs), RHA determinations, and the determination of whether or not the existing livestock grazing practices were compatible with protecting the objects of biological interest.

Four of the five allotments administered by the Medford District were not meeting one or more of the five rangeland health standards. The fifth allotment (Box R) was not meeting two standards, but the existing livestock grazing was not a significant factor. Both allotments (RHA assessments completed in 2000-01) administered by the Klamath Falls Field Office did not meet some standards, and subsequent management changes were implemented in 2002.

It was determined that existing livestock grazing practices were not compatible with protecting the objects of biological interest in some locations within the CSNM principally because RHA Standards were not being met, or the rate of ecosystem improvement, based on previous management changes, did not adequately sustain natural ecosystem dynamics within the CSNM.

The release of these determinations began the scoping process for assessing changes needed to bring livestock grazing into compliance with rangeland health standards and the proclamation. Possible changes that might result in making significant progress towards meeting standards included reductions in AUMs or season of use, fencing, use of pastures, rest-rotation or deferment grazing systems.

The results of the determinations were to be used in the environmental analysis process (NEPA) to frame alternatives for livestock management changes to meet standards and the proclamation, and make decisions to reauthorize or cancel (retire

according to the CSNM proclamation) leases (pursuant to the processes of applicable law).

Before the findings of the livestock impact studies, RHAs and determinations could lead to any action, the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-011) allowed for the voluntary donation of grazing leases within and adjacent to the monument.

Apart from the Omnibus Act, a third party conservation group contacted lessees with a letter informing them that certified funds were waiting in an escrow account if the lessee was interested in donating their leases in accordance with the Omnibus Act. The BLM was not involved or privy to these buyout negotiations. Three leases within the CSNM (and one outside) were relinquished as a result of this third party buyout; one lessee on a Klamath Falls administered lease refused a buyout offer, and continues to graze on BLM lands on the eastern edge of the monument.

To date, most grazing leases administered by the Medford District in the monument have been donated by the lessees, and the leases permanently retired. One remaining allotment has 32 acres within the CSNM that is actively grazed (approximately 3 AUMs), but this portion within the monument is currently being proposed for exclusion from the allotment under one of the alternatives in the next lease renewal evaluation. Two allotments administered by the Klamath Falls Field Office (totaling 2,022 acres and 93 AUMs within the monument) are still actively authorized for grazing under their original, unmodified leases.

### b) Does BLM have any information on how ranchers have been treated through the voluntary buy-out program?

No. As stated above, the BLM was not involved in the buyout negotiations that led to the retirement of leases.

ALLOTMENTS	<b>#LESSEES</b>	<b>#LEASES</b>	LEASE EXP	LEASE
			DATE	HOLDER
Deadwood	2	2	2026	Lee Bradshaw
			2025	B&J Luscombe
Conde Creek	2	2	2018	Eugene Stanley
			2025	B&J Luscombe
Grizzly	1	2	2020	BbarK Cascade
			2020	Ranch
Howard Prairie	1	1	2022	Lee Bradshaw
Cove Creek	1	1	2022	James Miller
North Cove Ck	1	1	2019	Jesse Rabjohn
Cove Ranch	1	1	2019	James Miller
TOTAL	6	10		

c) How many grazing permits are in the expansion area and when do they come up for renewal. A map with permittee's names would be helpful. (Map attached)

d) Is BLM familiar with the two ranchers who claimed to be forced out of grazing permits on existing monument: (b) (6) and the expansion area?). If yes, please provide information on what happened with their grazing permits. If they are in the expansion area, please just let us know. We are not asking what might happen in the future.

The BLM is aware that (b) (6) voluntarily relinquished his lease and does not have a grazing lease in the proposed monument expansion area. Lee Bradshaw did not relinquish his lease and does have a lease in the proposed expansion.

#### 3. Timber sales/volume

### a) What is in the pipeline?

Moderate Intensity Timber Area: 12 acres @ 12 mbf/acre (144 MBF)

Low Intensity Timber Area: 5591 acres @ 8 mbf/acre (~45 MMBF)

Uneven-Aged Timber Area: 5463 acres @ 6 mbf/acre (~33 MMBF)

**Disclaimer:** Timber planning has only recently been implemented under the new 2016 Southwest Oregon Resource Management Plan. The potential volume is estimated based on acres in the harvest land base and an average volume per acre for a variety of prescription types achieved on recent timber sales in the area. The estimated volumes do not account for "no take of northern spotted owls" since we have not completed two year protocol. The estimated volume does not account for active timber sales in the vicinity. The estimated volumes assume acreage in the harvest land base has timber stands currently available for harvest. If more specific information is needed it may be useful to have State Office calculate board foot estimates from the model used for developing the RMP. Based on the above disclaimers, volume estimates should not be considered immediately available, but available over the next 50 to 100 years.

### b) Please provide a map of current and pending sales.

Attached is a map of current sales.

### c) How much timber volume has been cut under the current monument's allowance for timber aimed at ecosystem restoration and fire management?

No ecosystem restoration or fire management projects have been engaged to date.

### d) Was any O&C land taken into the current monument boundary?

Yes, a total of 40,155 acres of O&C land was included in the original boundary.



### Meeting Notes - BLM Director & AOCC Tim Freeman

1 message

Bechdolt, Michael (Mike) <mbechdol@blm.gov> Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 6:39 AM To: Laura Damm <Laura.Damm@sol.doi.gov>, Brian Perron <Brian.Perron@sol.doi.gov>, Lee Folliard <lfolliard@blm.gov>, Sandra Stevens <sstevens@blm.gov>

Attorney Client Privilege

Laura, Brian, Lee, and Sandra



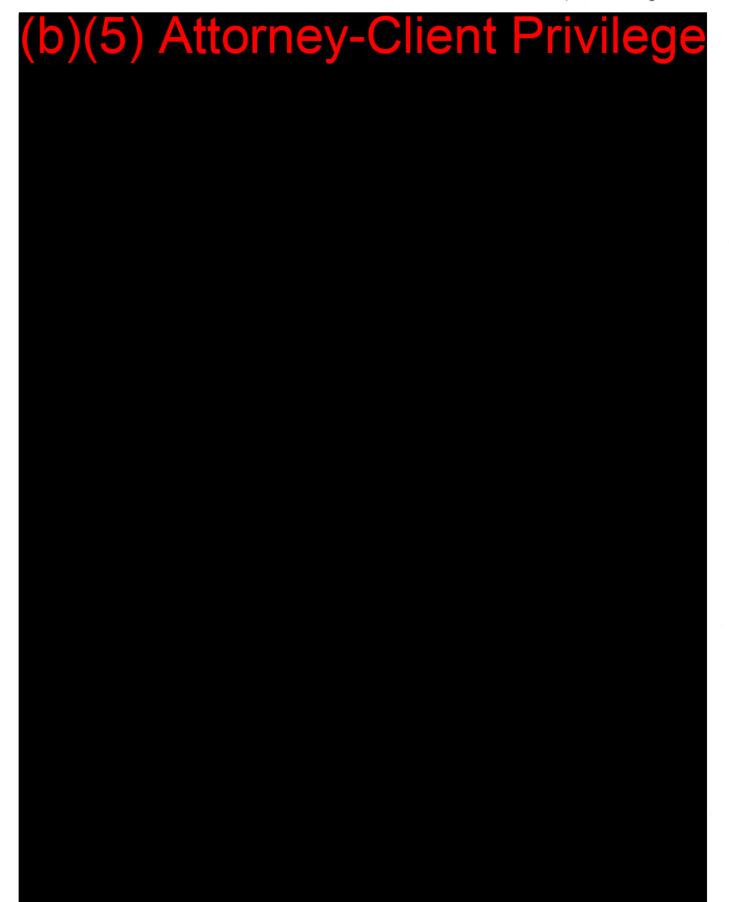
Questions? Let me know. Feel free to call if we need to discuss.

Mike

Mike Bechdolt Senior Forester O&C Washington DC Office 202-912-7234(o) 202-557-8619(c) mbechdol@blm.gov

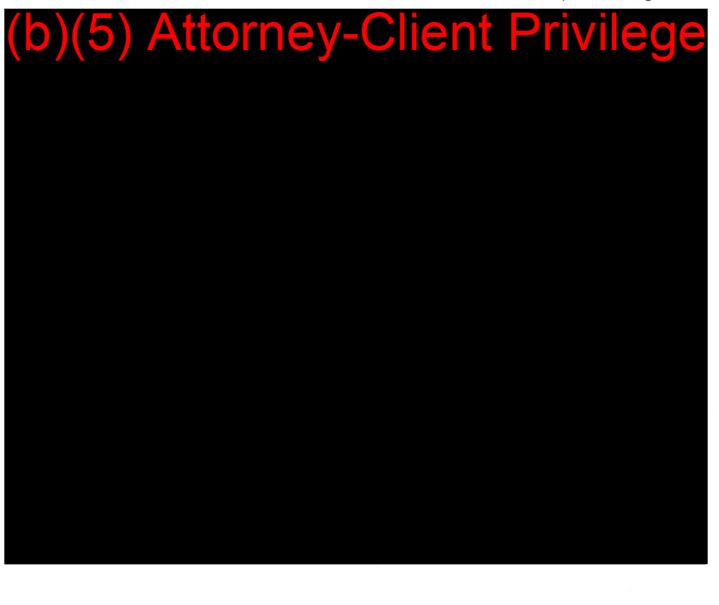


Attorney Client Privilege 1

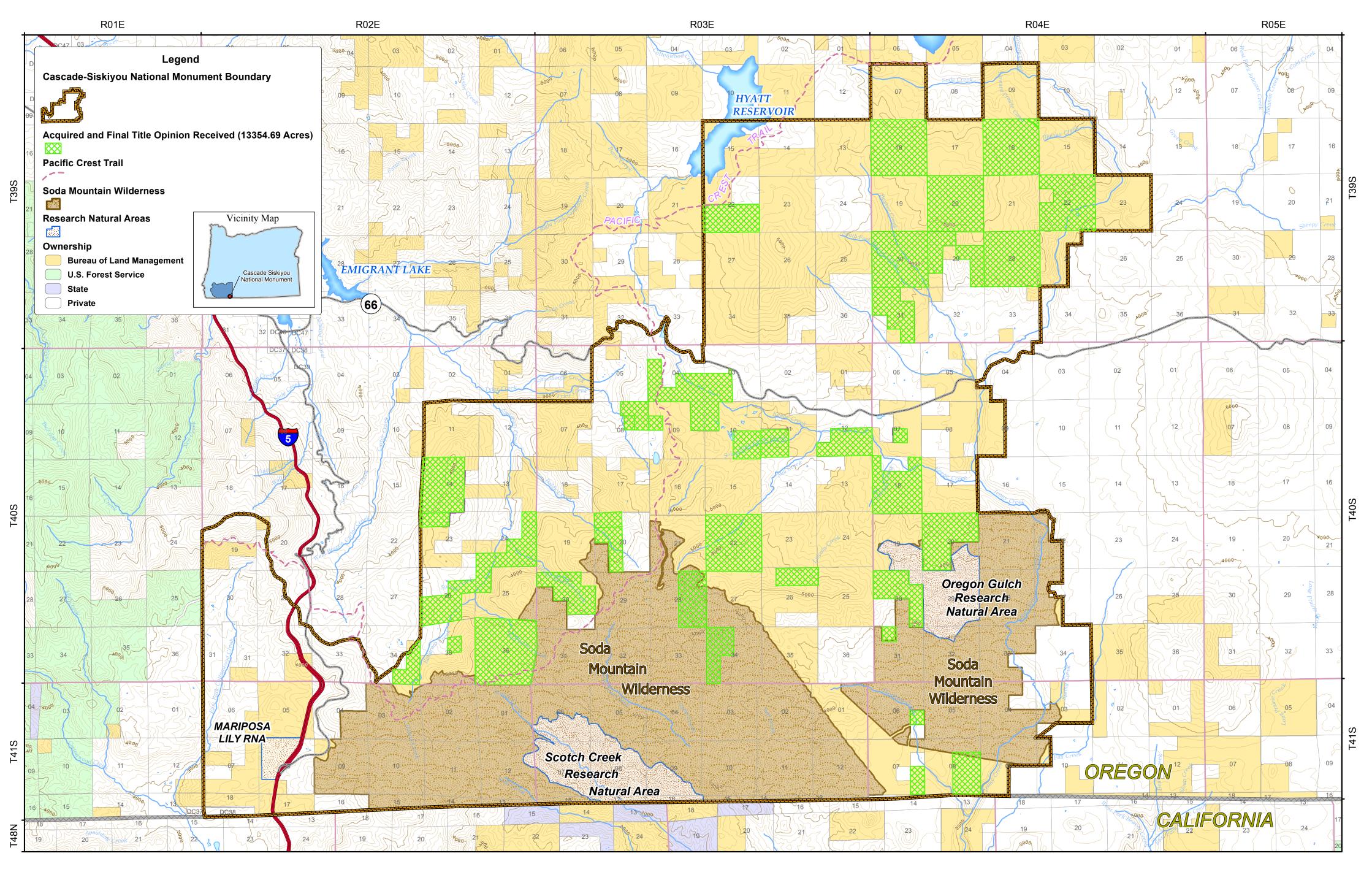


Attorney Client Privilege 2

## (b)(5) Attorney-Client Privilege



# **Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Acquisitions as of Sept. 2015**



**United States Department of the Interior** Bureau of Land Management Medford District Office 3040 Biddle Road

Medford, Oregon 97504



1.5 3

0

6 Miles

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Prepared By: stolleson Current Date: 08/14/2015

Expansion Area	District-Designated Reserve	Late-Successional Reserve	Riparian Reserve	Moderate Intensity Timber Area
BLM- OR: Klamath Falls RA	1974	2183	538	641
BLM- OR: Ashland RA	7100	17645	3801	12
TOTAL	9074	19828	4339	654

Uneven-Aged Timber Area	Low Intensity Timber Area	Congressionally Reserved Lands and National Conservation Lands	TOTAL
9173	2981	7	17497
5463	5591	204	39816
14636	8572	210	57313

Expansion Area	District-Designated Reserve	Late-Successional Reserve	Riparian Reserve	Moderate Intensity Timber Area
BLM- OR: Klamath Falls RA	1378	2188	592	642
BLM- OR: Ashland RA	5958	17655	3691	12
TOTAL	7337	19843	4284	654

Uneven-Aged Timber Area	Low Intensity Timber Area	Congressionally Reserved Lands and National Conservation Lands	TOTAL
10836	2983	7	18627
5176	4899	204	37596
16012	7882	211	56222

Expansion Area	District-Designated Reserve	Late-Successional Reserve	Riparian Reserve
BLM- OR: Klamath Falls RA	1378	2188	592
BLM- OR: Ashland RA	5958	17655	3692
TOTAL	7336	19843	4284

Moderate Intensity Timber Area	Uneven-Aged Timber Area	Low Intensity Timber Area	Congressionally Reserved Lands and National Conservation Lands	TOTAL
642	10836	2983	7	18626
12	5179	4900	204	37600
654	16015	7883	210	56226