



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Prineville District Office
3050 NE 3rd Street
Prineville, Oregon 97754



MAY 0 1 2018

In Reply Refer To:
DOI-BLM-ORWA-P000-2013-0017-EA

Dear Interested Public:

The Prineville District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently made two decisions regarding public land management and allowable uses on Glass Butte, about 11 air miles southeast of Hampton Oregon. The BLM analyzed the potential effects of both decisions together in one environmental assessment (EA), titled *Glass Butte Communication Site Right-of-Way and RMP Amendment, DOI-BLM-ORWA-P000-2013-0017-EA*. The BLM published the EA in August 2017, initiating a protest period on the first decision and a comment period on the second decision.

The first decision is to amend the 1989 Brothers/La Pine Resource Management Plan (RMP) by changing the Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class on 13.9 acres at an existing radio communication site. While most of the existing communication facilities atop Glass Butte are in VRM Class IV (where modification of the character of the landscape is allowed), two new facilities were proposed that would be just across the line and in VRM Class II (where BLM must largely retain the character of the landscape). This **planning level decision** moves the boundary between the two VRM classes over, enabling BLM to consider the applications for additional communication facilities at the existing communication site. The public protest period on the proposed planning level action ended in September 2017. No protests were received. This decision is not appealable.

The second decision is the **implementation level decision** to issue grants/leases for two new communication facilities atop the butte. At this time, the BLM is only issuing a decision for the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) facility; it is not issuing a decision now on the AT&T facility. The BLM received one letter during the comment period. Responses to the public comment letter, details on the decision, and information about appeal opportunities are in the decision document. The tower will allow the applicant and others leasing its facility (including the Oregon Department of Transportation) to

- monitor and direct the instantaneous routing and delivery of electrical power throughout the western states to provide power to millions of customers, and
- support emergency responder and other crucial communications services throughout the State.

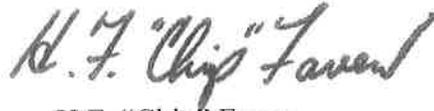
The two decisions, the EA, and other supporting information are available on the BLM's website:

https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do

On the website, select "NEPA" as type of project, click on "text search" then "advanced search" and enter "glass butte" under project name. If you would prefer a hardcopy, contact the BLM at blm_or_pr_mail@blm.gov or phone 541-416-6700, or stop by the BLM office during business hours 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, excluding federal holidays.

Thank you for your continued interest and participation in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "H.F. 'Chip' Faver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "A".

H.F. "Chip" Faver
Field Manager, Central Oregon Field Office