Greetings March 7, 2006

The Preliminary Decision Memorandum for the Crossings Fuels Reduction Project is enclosed and is now available for a 30-day Notice and Comment period. In brief, it includes commercial thinning and non-commercial thinning and mechanical shrub treatment on 1000 acres reducing crown fire susceptibility and fire behavior. It would protect the Newberry Estates subdivision and other facilities and reduce the risk to public safety. The activity is located in Township 22 South, Range 11 East, Sections 5, 7, 8, 17 & 18 and in Township 21 South, Range 11 East, Section 32, Willamette Meridian, Deschutes County, OR. This activity falls within a category of actions listed in the Forest Service NEPA Handbook (FSH) that are excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) and there are no extraordinary circumstances that would preclude use of the categories (FSH 1909.15, Chapter 31.2-10).

The Preliminary Decision Memo can be accessed on the Forest Service Website at:
http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/projects/units/bendrock/index.shtml or paper copy can be sent by requesting it from Peter Powers Phone # (541) 383-4774 or send a letter requesting the Decision Memo to Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District 1230 NE 3rd Street, A-262, Bend Oregon 97701.

This comment period is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this activity an opportunity to make their concerns known. This comment period is being provided pursuant to the September 16, 2005, order issued by the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in Case No. CIV F-03-6386JKS. Those who provide timely and substantive comments will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

**How to Comment and Timeframe** Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of a notice in *The Bulletin*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The Regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period. Written comments must be submitted to: Phil Cruz, Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE 3rd, Suite A-262, Bend, Oregon, 97701. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 7:45 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official’s office during normal business hours via telephone (541) 383-4000 or in person. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-bend-frock@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification. Electronic comments must be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word, rich text format, or portable document format only. E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed above, in other formats than those listed, or containing viruses will be rejected. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments by electronic means to ensure that their comments have been received. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.

Sincerely,

Phil Cruz
District Ranger