

Answers to 6 Frequently Asked Questions

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Boundary Expansion

1. Does the National Monument expansion **affect private property**?

No, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion only applies to public lands currently managed by the federal government and would continue to be managed as so. No private property is affected. Only public land is Monument land. Note: Howard Prairie Reservoir and its surrounding Bureau of Reclamation lands are NOT in the Monument expansion proposal.

2. How will the National Monument expansion impact **county budgets**?

Very little, if at all. Oregon's O&C Counties, many of which are in southern Oregon, have received some funding for their budgets through federal payments dating back to 1996. Even if counties receive some revenue from timber sales on public land in the future, the 50,000 acres considered for expansion constitute less than 3% of the 2.1 million acres of O&C land in western Oregon. Further, most of the BLM lands in the Monument expansion proposal are already allocated for less than maximum timber production in BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision, which has recognized other than commodity values here through conservation and recreation designations. **With Monument expansion, the county economy will continue to be boosted** by increased tourism revenue. Since the 2000 designation, local tourism and recreation businesses have grown, as reflected in the current support of local business owners for the expansion.

3. Will the National Monument expansion **impact wildfire risk**?

Yes, it will reduce fire risk. Both the Forest Service and BLM conclude that the "regeneration logging" often advocated on these lands, increases fire hazard as compared to the fire-resistant older forest stands in the vicinity of the Cascade-Siskiyou. Restoration and fuels reduction projects aimed at protecting homes and communities will likely be prioritized in the Monument's management plan. Numerous scientific studies show less high-severity fire in protected areas than in logged areas. The Oregon Department of Forestry will continue to address wildfire with immediate suppression efforts.

4. What activities are **allowed in the National Monument expansion**?

Hunting and fishing are allowed in the current national monument and would continue to be allowed in an expansion. Hunting and fishing in the National Monument expansion would continue to be regulated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Recreation & tourism, including **camping, boating, day and through-hiking (Pacific Crest Trail) birdwatching, driving on the many roads, botanizing, horseback riding, road cycling, snow shoeing, skiing, kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding, picnicking, rock climbing, mushroom hunting, and foraging.**

This area is used for local family getaways, while people residing in and near the Monument treasure a high quality of life. It is an outdoor classroom for local elementary students. Also, it is an outside laboratory for researchers such as geologists, biologists, ecologists, climatologists and other scientists. Both faculty and students from Southern Oregon University and Oregon State University benefit from access to the national monument and an expansion would create an even better outside laboratory.

5. How would **grazing be impacted** by the National Monument expansion?

Conservationists and ranchers worked together to pass legislation in 2009 that enabled ranchers to be paid with private funds to retire most grazing leases in the current Monument. Most grazing allotments in the proposed Monument expansion area are likewise named in

the legislation as functionally eligible for “buyout.” Allotments in an expanded Monument that were not named in the 2009 legislation would be made eligible for buyout via legislative amendment. The current Monument proclamation requires grazing allotments to be retired if BLM studies find grazing impacts to be incompatible with protecting the Monument’s native species and habitats. BLM and other studies have indeed documented incompatibility with protection, but no grazing allotments have been retired by BLM based on their studies.

6. Who already supports National Monument expansion?

Overwhelming local support from:

- The boards of the Talent and Ashland Chambers of Commerce
- The Talent and Ashland City Councils
- The Mayors of Talent and Ashland
- Local Oregon state legislators Rep. Peter Buckley, late-Sen. Alan Bates
- Many local landowners inside scientists’ recommended expansion boundaries.
- Klamath Tribe
- 15 local scientists, and another 70 national scientists
- 35 local businesses
- Native Plant Society of Oregon – Siskiyou Chapter, Rogue Valley Audubon Society, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Trout Unlimited, Geos Institute, Oregon Wild, Rogue Group Sierra Club, Selberg Institute, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, Ecology Center of the Siskiyou, Friends of the Kalmiopsis

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Supporters



400 people in support of the Monument expansion attended Senator Jeff Merkley’s public hearing, October 14th, 2016, with Deputy Secretary of the Interior Mike Connor.



From left to right: OR Rep. Peter Buckley, Chair of the Klamath Tribes Don Gentry, local scientist Pepper Trail Ph.D., and local landowner Vern Crawford all speak in support of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion, Public Hearing October 14th, 2016