More than two decades in the making,

the Lakeview
Resource
Management
Plan (RMP) was
completed in 2025
and established
a new paradigm
for managing 3.2
million acres of
federal public lands
on the Lakeview
Field Office in the
Bureau of Land
Management's (BLM)
Lakeview District.

The new plan protects wilderness values on 415,679 acres of public lands, while also conserving wilderness characteristics and wildlife habitat on an additional 738,665 acres. Conservation management of this landscape will promote habitat connectivity, bolster climate resilience, and preserve one of the most important wildlife migration corridors in the West.

This landmark result stems from Oregon Natural Desert Association's (ONDA) decades of grassroots work inventorying these lands, advocating for their protection, and pressing for strong, science-based management decisions in the final plan.

ONDA's policy experts, analysts and attorneys then applied that robust record of support to a complex planning process that wound its way to federal court and back before finally arriving at the plan we have today.

OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION

Lakeview Resource Management Plan

ONDA's Participation in the Planning Process

ONDA identified key issues for the new plan to address, including management of wilderness values, livestock grazing, and off-road

ONDA commented that the draft RMP failed to include appropriate management solutions for key issues highlighted in the scoping period.

ONDA protested the proposed plan for failing to consider management for wilderness values and impacts of livestock grazing and off-road vehicle use.

ONDA challenged the Record of Decision in court, arguing that the plan did not address the issues identified in ONDA's protest, violating the National Environmental Policy Act and other federal environmental laws.

The District Court decided in favor of the BLM, ruling that BLM's decisions were entitled to deference. ONDA appealed the decision to the Ninth Circuit.

In ONDA's related case challenging the Southeastern Oregon RMP, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the District Court decision, agreeing with ONDA that BLM must study management impacts to wilderness values like any other resource on public lands.

In a settlement agreement governing both plans, BLM consented to reinventory roadless areas across 3.5 million acres of public lands for wilderness character on the Lakeview Field Office, and to consider additional alternatives for managing wildlands, livestock grazing, and off-road vehicle use in a new management plan amendment.

ONDA commented on the scope of issues to be addressed in the plan amendment.

ONDA organized more than twenty organizations and thousands of ONDA members to advocate for robust protections for public wild lands, limitations on off-road vehicle use, and a voluntary grazing permit retirement program to cover the entire planning area.

ONDA protested the plan amendment hoping to add further protections to the Record of Decision.

Timeline

1999

Resource management - planning commences

Scoping period

2001
Draft RMP released - to public

_ Comment period -

2003

Proposed RMP released to public —

Protest period-

2004

BLM denies ONDA's protest, issues Record of Decision adopting proposed RMP —

2005

- ONDA files lawsuit

2007

District Court rules in favor of BLM

2008

- Ninth Circuit rules in favor of ONDA

2010

Settlement agreement reached between ONDA & BLM

2012

RMP amendment — planning commences

Scoping period -

RMP amendment planning paused pending completion of BLM's planning process for sage-grouse conservation

■ 2016

RMP amendment planning resumes

2024

Draft RMP released to public

Comment period

Proposed RMP amendment – released to public

Protest period



Record of Decision issued adopting proposed amendment

Steps in the BLM Planning Process

BLM began the planning process by writing a pre-plan and analyzing existing resource conditions on the Lakeview Field Office.

BLM offered a 30-day public comment period with public meetings to solicit input on issues and topics to be covered in the plan.

BLM released the draft RMP to the public. The plan outlined several management alternatives and analyzed the effects of each alternative on the environment. The draft plan also identified BLM's preferred management alternative.

BLM offered a 90-day public comment period and public meetings to receive input on the draft RMP.

BLM released the proposed RMP to the public, which included responses to public comments on the draft plan.

Release of the proposed RMP initiated a 30-day public protest period

BLM signed the Record of Decision formally approving the proposed RMP.

In response to the Ninth Circuit Court's decision, BLM issued new manuals guiding its wilderness inventory review and wilderness management on public lands, reinstating guidance that had been abandoned in 2003.

BLM began the new plan amendment by writing a pre-plan and conducting an analysis of existing resource conditions on the Lakeview Field Office

BLM offered a 30-day public comment period with public meetings to solicit input on issues and topics to be covered in the plan amendment.

As provided in the settlement agreement, BLM updated its wilderness inventory information for the Lakeview Field Office, including by assessing the public wilderness inventory provided by ONDA.

BLM's plan proposed to protect 416,000 acres of wilderness-quality public lands, including by elevating more than 42,000 acres to "Section 202" Wilderness Study Areas, while also conserving wilderness values across an additional 739,000 acres in the region. The proposed plan also limited off-road vehicle use to all but 70,000 acres in the 3.2 million acre planning area.