

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
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BLM
Burns District Office

Rehab efforts begin in Miller Homestead Wildfire Area

Hines, Ore. – The Burns District of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will soon begin efforts to stabilize and rehabilitate the burned area within the Miller Homestead wildfire perimeter. The Miller Homestead fire was started by lightning on July 8 and blackened nearly 161,000 acres of BLM-administered, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and private lands.

Rehabilitation efforts in the burned area will take place over three years and include:

- 3,500 acres of aerially seeding;
- 22,000 acres of drill seeding;
- planting 9,082 acres of sagebrush seedling (plugs);
- placing up to 200 erosion control structures within or upslope of affected drainages;
- placing a sediment fence along Highway 205, up to 1,000 feet long;
- cleaning culverts, ditches, and existing catchment basins;
- reconstructing approximately 50 miles of fence;
- reconstructing or replacing one wildlife guzzler and one spring development; and
- constructing approximately 20 miles of new temporary (removable) fence.

A combination of native and desirable non-native species will be utilized in the seed mixes. Rehabilitation treatments are designed to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover naturally from severe wildfire damages. Implementing these actions provides the greatest likelihood of successful establishment of perennial vegetation to compete with annual grasses, stabilize soils, and reduce the likelihood of new and expanding weed infestations, among other things. In addition, these actions provide for the ability to control erosion, protect facilities, and provide for public safety.

The Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record analyzing the rehabilitation and stabilization work are available online at:

www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/plans/index.php

Specific details about the types and locations of the work described above are included in the documents. For more information about the Miller Homestead wildfire or the rehabilitation work, please contact the Burns District office at 541-573-4400.

About the BLM: The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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