

U.S. Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2007

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Release No. OR-020-07-46

## ***BLM to Host Tour to Theimer Stewardship Contract Site; Interested Bidders Encouraged to Attend***

**HINES, Oregon** – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District is looking to award its second stewardship contract in as many years for another forest restoration project. The contract – named ‘Theimer’ after a spring in the area – includes approximately 162 acres of precommercial thinning, 153 acres of juniper cutting, 315 acres of slash piling, 5.8 miles of road maintenance, 61,000 board feet of saw logs from commercial thinning on 162 acres, and 450 green tons of woody debris made available for biomass.

Interested contractors are invited to participate in a pre-bid tour of the Theimer area on Tuesday, August 28. BLM Natural Resource Specialist Jon Reponen will lead the tour and answer questions on project specifications or any other items needing clarification. BLM will provide transportation to and from the site for potential bidders, but those interested must reserve a tour seat no later than Monday, August 27. Participants should bring water and plan for an 8:00 a.m. departure from the BLM office in Hines. The tour should conclude around 12:00 noon.

Reponen said, “One of the main benefits of a stewardship contract is that it allows for the costs of removal of small trees and slash and the cost of building fences or other service work to be exchanged for the merchantable trees on a value to value basis.” The goal is to utilize previously unmarketable small diameter trees for things such as manufacturing wood pellets, power generation and lumber. Finding a use for all the wood fibers means the amount of wood burned in the forest is reduced, treatment costs to the taxpayer are less, and jobs are provided in the local community.

The opportunity for BLM to utilize stewardship contracts has only been available since the passage of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (the Bill) (P.L. 108-7). Section 323 of the Bill amended the FY 1999 Appropriations Bill that originally granted the U.S. Forest Service pilot stewardship contracting authority. The FY 2003 amendment is the new authority and grants BLM the ability to use stewardship contracting as a tool for forest and rangeland restoration, which contributes overall to implementation of the President’s Healthy Forests Initiative and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

For more information on the Theimer stewardship contract or to reserve a space on the tour, call Jon Reponen, at (541) 573-4475.

