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Agencies, Industry Partner to Improve Fish Habitat *Project One of the Largest of Its Kind*

Coos Bay, Ore. – Industry, agency and non-profit groups are cooperating in a large-scale stream enhancement project in the Coquille River Watershed, southeast of Coos Bay, Ore. in 2008 and 2009, with the majority of the work to be accomplished by the end of this summer.

The project aims to improve and enhance approximately 11 miles of stream habitat, one of the largest restoration efforts to date in Oregon, for local native fish species including coho and Chinook salmon, searun and resident cutthroat trout, steelhead trout, and other fish and aquatic species.

Excavators, cable systems and a helicopter will be used to place logs throughout the project area. The helicopter is expected to begin placing logs in the stream on September 22, with this phase of the project expected to last two to three days.

The work is occurring on lands owned by the Menasha Corporation (Campbell Group), Plum Creek Timber Company and on public lands administered by the Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The streams in the project include Moon Creek, Hudson Creek, Fruin Creek, North Fork Creek and Little North Fork, which are all important fish-bearing streams in the upper North Fork Coquille River.

Grants for the project were awarded to the non-profit Coquille Watershed Association, which has been involved in restoration projects in the local area since 1994. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is the primary contributor of funds, but substantial support was also provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and the Bring Back the Natives program.

“This project, and the vast improvement to fish habitat in this area, was made possible because the parties involved in this project recognize the need to enhance fish habitat and support voluntary efforts to create and maintain healthy watersheds,” said Jen Feola, a fish biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

For more information on the project, contact Dan Van Slyke, Fish Biologist at the BLM at 541-751-4452.

About BLM

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The BLM, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate throughout the nation. 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 BLM accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

