Weed Wrenches Now Available for Loan

**Coos, Curry and Douglas County** – Landowners can now borrow a weed wrench to remove noxious weeds from their property as part of the “Rent-A-Weed Wrench” program launched by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and local watershed conservation organizations.

According to Glenn Harkleroad, Coos Bay BLM Noxious Weed Coordinator, a Weed Wrench is a manually-operated, all steel tool designed to remove woody plants by their roots. It is effective in pulling many noxious weeds, including Scotch Broom. They work well in areas where herbicide use is restricted, cost prohibitive, or not preferred.

The Weed Wrenches are available for loan at several watershed council offices in Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties. A $25 refundable deposit per wrench is required at the time of loan. People can borrow up to three wrenches at a time. Borrowers of the wrenches will be required to leave their name and contact information and will be asked a few questions about the weed control to be done. Answering the weed control questions will not be required, but will help the BLM and local Weed Advisory Boards determine the effectiveness of the program.

“Noxious weeds continue to be one of the bigger and more costly challenges facing land managers and private landowners in Southwestern Oregon today,” said Harkleroad. “Hopefully this program will give landowners a tool to be proactive and tackle noxious weeds on their own property.”

Weed Wrenches are available for loan from the following organizations:

- Coos Watershed Association
  63534 Kingfisher Drive
  Charleston, OR
  (541) 888-5922

- Coquille Watershed Association
  55135 Picture Valley Rd
  Coquille, OR
  (541) 572-2541
South Coast Watersheds Council
98141 4th Street
Gold Beach, OR
(541) 247-2755

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District
Dean Creek East End Ranch House
47088 State Highway 38
Reedsport, OR
(541) 271-2611

Funding for the project was approved and provided by the Coos Bay BLM Resource Advisory Committee in 2006 as charted under the Secure Rural School and Community Self Determination Act of 2000.

For more information on the program, contact one of the organizations listed above, or Glenn Harkleroad with the BLM at (541) 751-4361.

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