

# NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3040 Biddle Road • Medford, Oregon 97504 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/medford>

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
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## **BLM OHV PUBLIC COMMENT FORUM ON APRIL 2**

**Medford Oregon** – The Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will hold a public comment forum on April 2, 2009 at the Medford Interagency Office, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon. The forum is an opportunity for the public to express opinions on the draft Timber Mountain Recreation Management Plan, which has been developed to guide off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the Timber Mountain Special Recreation Management Area, also commonly referred to as *John's Peak*.

The forum will start at 6:00 p.m. when sign-up for the 60 available 2½ minute speaking slots will begin. After a short speech by the BLM, speakers from the public will be able to offer comments from 7:15 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. Should there be more people sign up than available speaking slots, a 6:50 PM drawing will be held to identify speakers. All in attendance will have the opportunity to leave written comments or talk to BLM personnel.

Written comments concerning the draft Timber Mountain Recreation Management Plan will continue to be accepted until April 13, 2009.

The 15,114-acre Timber Mountain Special Recreation Management Area is generally situated to the west of the City of Jacksonville, and south of the Interstate-5 corridor in Jackson County, in southwestern Oregon. The draft Timber Mountain Recreation Management Plan identifies trails and roads to be designated and managed for OHV use. Alternatives in the plan consider reductions in OHV trail use ranging from 63 to 92 percent over what is currently used. Approximately 31 to 140 miles of roads and trails would be opened to OHVs instead of the 376 miles of existing roads and trails on public and private land that are currently used. Trail decommissioning is also proposed to restore watershed conditions, prevent unintended trespass on adjacent private lands, and to protect resources.

OHV route alternatives were developed consistent with the new 2008 Medford District Resource Management Plan direction, which requires the designation of final OHV routes within five years.

Questions about the plan should be directed to Kristi Mastrofini of the BLM Medford District Office at (541) 618-2384. Additional information about the draft Timber Mountain Recreation Management Plan is also available online at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/index.php>

### About the BLM

The BLM manages more land – 256 million acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface 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 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.

