

# **Public Announcement**

## **BLM is Seeking Public Comments for an Environmental Analysis *related to* The John Day River Limits of Acceptable Change Study**

### **Who manages the John Day Wild and Scenic River?**

The Prineville Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in partnership with The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Oregon Department of State Lands, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the John Day Coalition of Counties (the John Day River Interagency Planning Team) has responsibility for managing the 147-mile John Day Wild and Scenic River from Service Creek to Tumwater Falls. Together these partners ensure the river is healthy and that river values are protected.

### **Doesn't the John Day River already have a management plan?**

Yes, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act directed the BLM to complete a river management plan addressing the protection of river resources, the development of lands and facilities, and user capacities. The 2001 John Day River Management Plan (the River Plan) addressed each of these requirements, but deferred making a decision about user capacities until necessary physical and social monitoring data could be collected. The River Plan decided that a Limits of Acceptable Change Study (the Study) and related environmental analysis would be used to determine the appropriate levels for boating use and make other recreation management decisions as mandated by the Act.

### **What is Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC)?**

LAC is a process for identifying the desired conditions for an area and maintaining these desired conditions over time. The Study, which covers 118 miles of Wild and Scenic River from Service Creek to Cottonwood Bridge, was completed with the help of the John Day River Interagency Planning Team. It defines the desired future conditions of the river corridor, selects indicators that can be measured over time to monitor how well the desired conditions are met and establishes a long-term plan to monitor these conditions. It also lists possible management actions that could be taken if necessary to insure that desired conditions are met. Some of the management actions are ready to be taken at any time as needed. Other possible management actions require an environmental analysis and are considered to be preliminary.

### **What will the Environmental Analysis look at?**

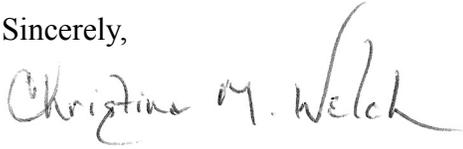
We are beginning the preparation of an environmental analysis in which the BLM will look at possible management actions it can take to address boating encounters and campsite availability when the number of river users exceeds capacity. The associated effects will be analyzed through an Environmental Assessment (EA). The goal is to have a toolbox of possible management actions ready to implement if and when conditions indicate that action is necessary.

### **How can I be involved?**

As we begin the John Day River Study EA, we would like to hear your comments on possible management actions for the Boating Encounters and the Campsite Availability sections highlighted in the Study. You may view the Study and make on-line comments at: [www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/johndayriverstudy](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/johndayriverstudy). Or you may mail comments to the address provided below. Please provide your comments by August 30, 2008.

We appreciate your interest in the John Day River and encourage you to monitor the Prineville BLM internet site for status updates.

Sincerely,



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*\*Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment –including your personal identifying information –may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.*



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