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BLM to Burn Noxious Weed Medusahead

(Roseburg, OR) – In an effort to control an annual grass known as Meadusahead, the Bureau of Land Management is planning to conduct two prescribed burns on the southwest corner of the North Bank Habitat Management Area approximately 3 miles southeast of Sutherlin and ten miles northeast of Roseburg. One burn will be 40 acres along North Bank Road and the other 9 acres just north of North Bank Road.

The burn is being designed and accomplished in cooperation with the Douglas Forest Protective Association, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The burn is currently scheduled for the beginning of July, most likely during the week of the 1st, depending on favorable weather conditions. During the burn, the west entrances of the NBHMA will be closed to the public. Information about the burn will be posted at west entrance kiosks.

Timing of this particular invasive noxious weed control project is critical. In order to be effective, the Medusahead seed must be burned after it has developed on the plant, but before it can harden and fall to the ground.

Meadusahead, or as it is scientifically known *Taeniatherum caput-medusae*, was accidentally introduced into the United States in the 1880s. It is officially designated as a noxious weed. It crowds out native plant grasses and forbs and more desirable livestock forage plants. After seed set, the silica-rich plants persist as a dense litter layer that prevents germination and survival of native plant species, and contributes to fire danger in the summer. Due to its high silica content, Meaduahead is not a good forage plant for livestock or wildlife, except in very early growing season.

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About the 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 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 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.

