

For Immediate Release
June 8, 2007

Contact: Kevin Devitt (509) 536-1200
Release No. OR130-FY2007-13

Juniper Dunes Cooperative Agreement Clarification

SPOKANE – The recently signed cooperative use and lease agreement between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and a local land owner (Mr. Steven DeRuyter), which allows public use of a portion of Peterson Road to access BLM lands in the Juniper Dunes area of Franklin County, Washington, only applies to the portion of Peterson Road which is owned by Mr. DeRuyter. The remainder of Peterson Road, to the south of the lease agreement portion, is privately owned, and there the BLM does not have an agreement in place for public use. Anyone wishing to use the southern portion of the road must obtain permission from the other private land owners.

In April 2007, BLM announced the completion of a cooperative use and lease agreement with Mr. DeRuyter which would allow the public to use a portion of Peterson Road which was previously blocked by a locked gate. This agreement only covered the portion of the road owned by Mr. DeRuyter. The BLM is continuing to work with Franklin County, local landowners, and the recreation community on a long-term strategy to secure permanent public access to the area.

Juniper Dunes has been a popular regional outdoor recreation area for decades. Its amenities include large sand dunes, a designated wilderness area, important nesting areas for several species of hawks, and a large area open to off-highway vehicles.

More information, to include a map of the area, is available on the internet at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/newsroom>.

###

