

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Volunteers Help Restore McLoughlin Canyon Trailhead During National Public Lands Day

Tonasket, WA – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) held a successful National Public Lands Day at the McLoughlin Canyon trailhead, Saturday, September 27, 2008, with volunteers helping plant trees, install an informational bulletin board, spread grass seed, re-sign the trail, pick up litter, and improve the trail conditions following a wildfire in 2007.

“We had 14 volunteers, including returning volunteers who had helped out with previous National Public Lands Day events at this location,” said Diane Priebe, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Wenatchee BLM. “Volunteers attended from the Okanogan County Historical Society, as well as local residents and neighbors in the area.”

Volunteers planted 200 tree seedlings, and set up biodegradable safety screens to help protect the seedlings from wildlife, and improve their chances of survival. “We watered approximately 100 trees at NPLD, and our fire crew followed up with watering the trees over the next week,” Priebe said.

Volunteers also worked on spreading native grass seed mix over part of the burned area, and assisted in the installation of an informational bulletin board at the parking lot for future visitors.

The cleanup of the area resulted in volunteers removing upward of 30 tires, and other debris that had been dumped at the parking lot.

Volunteers also had the opportunity to participate in several talks held by guest speakers. Ann Boyd, Archeologist with the Spokane BLM, discussed pictographs, and Don Hruska, of the Okanogan County Historical Society, spoke about the glacial geology and history of the area. “We had a great day out there!” Priebe said.

In 2007, BLM and volunteers began restoration and rehabilitation work at the McLoughlin Canyon trailhead after the Tunk Grade fire burned through the area.

McLoughlin Canyon, located southeast of Tonasket, WA, can be reached by turning right off of Highway 97 onto the McLoughlin Canyon Road, just south of Tonasket, at Janis. Take the first left and continue along the road for approximately two miles to a parking lot on the left.

To see photos from the event, please visit the BLM Image Library at <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/bpd.html> Search for McLoughlin Canyon Trailhead. To see a list of all NPLD sites, activities, contacts, and downloadable photos from past events, please visit the Media Center section of www.publiclandsday.org

For more information about the McLoughlin Canyon National Public Lands Day event, contact Diane Priebe at (509) 665-2100.

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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 Bureau, 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 Bureau 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.

Spokane District Office
BLM

