

NEWSRelease BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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NEW BLM VALE DISTRICT MANAGER SELECTED

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Oregon/Washington State Director Ed Shepard has named Don Gonzalez as the new BLM Vale District Manager. As District Manager, Mr. Gonzalez will be responsible for management of 5.1 million acres of BLM lands in eastern Oregon and southeast Washington. Mr. Gonzalez was previously the Natural Resources Staff Officer for the Colville National Forest in Colville WA.

Shepard noted Mr. Gonzalez's experience: "With over 30 years of broad-based experience in natural resource management, Don has demonstrated effective leadership in a variety of roles, including Natural Resources Staff Officer, Acting District Manager, Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor, Ecosystem Planning and Monitoring Staff, and District Ranger."

Shepard also said, "Don has been instrumental in forming partnerships with State and Federal resource management agencies and other stakeholders through collaboration and pursuit of common interests. As a line manager, he has successfully led workforce planning initiatives and implemented efficient and effective business practices that improve customer service, increase operational efficiency and enhance communications. I believe this experience, plus Mr. Gonzalez's excellent consultation and communications skills, will serve him well in working with staff and stakeholders to administer a full multiple-use resource management program for the Vale District Office."

"This is an exciting challenge and one I am eager to take up," said Gonzalez. "I look forward to a smooth transition as new Vale District Manager, and to working with the leadership team and employees on the Vale District. I am excited by what the future holds and I am focused on providing the highest level of public service," said Gonzalez.

Mr. Gonzalez is expected to assume responsibility as the Vale District Manager in January 2010. Outgoing Vale District Manager Dave Henderson is retiring after 31 years of Federal service.

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The BLM manages more land -- 253 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.

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