PORTLAND – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prohibits the use of fireworks on all BLM-managed public lands throughout Oregon and Washington.

“We manage some amazing public lands in Oregon and Washington, and take that responsibility very seriously. The wet and cool spring weather has kept things green in the western valleys, but we have some very dry areas east of the Cascades. The snowpack is actively melting now and there is much more activity outdoors. Climate forecasts suggest a fairly normal pattern this year, but unmanaged wildfire is always a risk,” explained Mike Mottice, Acting State Director for Oregon/Washington BLM.

“The wet and cool spring weather has kept our forests moist in the western valleys, but we have drier forests and some very dry rangelands east of the Cascades. We have already had several range fires this year and we will be moving into a more active fire season fairly soon,” explained Mike Mottice, Acting State Director for Oregon/Washington BLM.

“The upcoming 4th of July holiday is a great occasion for families and friends to get outside to enjoy our public lands. Please do so carefully. Help protect important wildlife habitat, watersheds and our working forests and rangelands,” said Mottice.

Those who ignite or operate fireworks on BLM-managed lands can be fined up to $1,000, receive a prison term of up to one year, or both. This also includes Tannerite and other target shooting with exploding targets. In addition, individuals responsible for starting wildland fires on federal lands can be billed for the cost of fire suppression.

The BLM manages 16 million acres of land in Oregon and Washington. The agency cooperates with the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group to fight wildland fires in the Pacific Northwest. Information about the BLM’s fire program is available on the Oregon/Washington BLM web site at: http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/fire/index.php

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About the BLM

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than $130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly $5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a $1.1 billion budget. 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.

Come join the Oregon/Washington BLM on our Social Media sites for the latest on outdoor opportunities, videos of your public lands, spectacular photos, and a whole lot more!

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