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Bureau of Land Management Selects New Spokane District Manager

Portland, OR, -- Robert Towne has been selected as the new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Spokane District Manager. As District Manager, Towne will have responsibility for management of the 400,000 acre BLM Spokane District. The position was most recently held by Joe Buesing who retired from the BLM after more than two decades as the District Manager. Towne started in his new position December 12, 2005.

“Robert has a strong track record of working with landowners, tribes, customers, and local and state partners. He has also demonstrated the leadership needed to effectively manage natural resources on public lands. He is extremely well qualified to work cooperatively with communities and interests to manage a full multiple-use resource management program in the Spokane District,” said Elaine M. Brong, State Director, Oregon and Washington, BLM.

Towne, who graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management, brings more than 30 years of government service to his new position. Towne began his federal career on the Coeur d’Alene National Forest in 1975, and has worked in the Salem, Eugene, and Prineville, Oregon districts of the BLM. He has served in detail assignments to the BLM State Office in Portland and the national BLM Office in Washington, D.C. He has held a number of BLM leadership positions including Field Manager in Oregon, and Deputy Group Manager in Washington, D.C.

“I am excited about this opportunity to work cooperatively with the communities, adjacent landowners, and citizens that have an interest in the management of the BLM lands in the Spokane District,” said Towne.

The BLM manages more land – 261 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.

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