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### **BLM Seeks Input on Plan Revision**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is asking for public input as the federal agency revises its Resource Management Plans for BLM-managed lands in western Oregon. Today a new planning document is being released for public review and comment until March 17, 2006. The six plans under revision cover over 2.5 million acres of public land scattered throughout western Oregon.

According to Elaine Brong, BLM Oregon/Washington State Director, the new document titled, "Planning Criteria and State Director Guidance" is being mailed this week to interested parties and is available on the BLM's website.

"We asked for the public's help last fall in defining the issues that need to be addressed in our plans," said Brong. "We've used the ideas and information we received to help craft this document that outlines our planning direction and the processes and methods we'll use to analyze the effects of different management alternatives."

The 200-page document describes the planning process and the goals of the plan revisions. It lists five distinct management alternatives that BLM proposes to use as the basis for an environmental impact statement being prepared this year. After analyzing the impacts of the alternatives, BLM will be asking the public to help again this fall as the agency selects a preferred alternative.

The bulk of the document is found in Chapter 3, "Analytical Methods and Techniques". This section contains technical information arranged by resource (timber, wildlife, fisheries, etc.) describing how the analysis of expected impacts will be completed including: the assumptions made, questions to address, methods and techniques of analysis, and data that may be needed.

The BLM will host several public workshops in western Oregon to discuss the range of alternatives considered in the revisions. These meetings are open to the public. All meetings will start at 7:00 p.m. and last about an hour and a half.

- Monday, March 6, BLM Office, Eugene, 2890 Chad Drive
- Tuesday, March 7, BLM Office, North Bend, 1300 Airport Lane
- Wednesday, March 8, BLM Office, Roseburg, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd.
- Thursday, March 9, Interagency Office, Grants Pass, 2164 N.E. Spalding Ave.
- Monday, March 13, BLM Office, Salem, 1717 Fabry Rd. SE
- Tuesday, March 14, BLM Office, Klamath Falls, 2795 Anderson Ave., Building #25

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The "Planning Criteria and State Director Guidance" for the Western Oregon Plan Revisions can be downloaded from the BLM's web site at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr>, or paper or electronic copies (CD) can be requested from the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revisions office at P O Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208; (503) 808-6629; orwopr@or.blm.gov.

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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