

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OR120-09-09 Contact: Megan Harper (541) 751- 4353
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Garden Plan Available for Public Review

REEDSPORT, Ore. – A plan outlining future management of the O.H. Hinsdale Garden near Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area is now available for public review. The Recreation Project Plan for the O.H. Hinsdale Garden, Spruce Reach Island, published by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Coos Bay District, outlines plans to provide public access to the garden during blooming season, while protecting and restoring the historic garden and the island's natural resources. "It is important to us we hear from community members about our proposed plans," said Dennis Turowski, Umpqua Field Manager.

The plan is available for download at: www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/plans/activityplans.php

Comments will be accepted through April 16, 2010. Comments can be submitted via email to or_coosbay_mail@blm.gov or by mail to BLM Coos Bay District, ATTN: Sharon Cawley, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459.

The plan proposes to implement various action items in two phases between now and 2013. Among many items, proposed actions include development of a small parking area, installation of a foot bridge to provide for additional garden access, eventual removal of the Spruce Reach Island house with appropriate care of resident bats, and continued partnership with the community to restore and maintain the garden. Many of the items outlined in the plan will require additional National Environmental Policy Act environmental analysis to assess alternatives before they are implemented.

Spruce Reach Island is a 67 acre site managed by the BLM and is situated between Highway 38 and the Umpqua River across from the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area. The previous landowner, O.H. Hinsdale, planted hundreds of azaleas and rhododendrons in an English Woodland style. The garden is a historical resource that is potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

For additional information on the plan or to request a hard copy, contact Ms. Sharon Cawley at (541) 756-0100. Additional information about the BLM Coos Bay District is available online at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/index.php>

About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – 253 million surface 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.

