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Free Training Will Help Boaters Protect Local Waterways

LAKESIDE, Ore. – Attention boaters! Are you interested in keeping local waterways clean and healthy for fishing, boating and swimming? Are you interested in learning how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species from waterway to waterway? If so, plan to attend **Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention 101** on Tuesday, July 28 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Osprey Point Resort in Lakeside, Ore.

The training will include information on aquatic invasive species in southwest Oregon, why they can be damaging to waterways and techniques boaters, anglers and others can use to prevent their spread. Instructors will have a boat on site to teach boat inspection techniques.

“Aquatic invasive plants and animals pose a serious risk to the health of the area’s waterways. Many of our favorite lakes and rivers are in danger from these invaders,” said Jeanne Standley with the Bureau of Land Management in Coos Bay.

For example, the Bureau of Land Management must remove the invader Brazilian elodea from Loon Lake. The plant, common in aquariums and introduced into Loon Lake, can get tangled in boat motors and make swimming virtually impossible. Other aquatic invaders encourage erosion which increases sediment in water, making it murky and reducing the survival of small fish.

“Boaters and anglers can play a huge role in preventing their spread,” said Standley.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Marine Board, Portland State University, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and local watershed councils have teamed up to provide the training. Osprey Point Resort is located at 1505 North Lake Road in Lakeside.

There is no fee for the training, but pre-registration is requested. Please call Jeanne Standley at 541-756-0100 for additional information or to register.

About BLM

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The BLM, 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 BLM 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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