

NEWSRelease BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-14-02
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BLM Steam Donkey Echo Project Scoping Comment Time Extension

Eugene, Ore. – Due to the partial government shutdown, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eugene District will provide an additional 16 days for submitting scoping comments for the Steam Donkey Echo project. Scoping will continue until November 14, 2013. Please submit comments either via mail or email.

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The BLM has begun preliminary planning for the Steam Donkey Echo Environmental Assessment (T18S R7W sections 9 and 23) and is seeking external scoping comments through public participation. The project includes variable retention harvest and thinning treatments to improve habitat for species listed under the Endangered Species Act including the Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets. Thinning in riparian areas may be considered to improve riparian function to benefit coho salmon habitat.

The Steam Donkey Echo project is located in the Oregon Coast Range and is within an area designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as critical habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2012 Final Critical Habitat Rule encourages land managers to consider implementation of forest management practices such as the application of "ecological forestry" to restore natural ecological processes within Northern Spotted Owl critical habitat. The BLM is working collaboratively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on this project to enhance high quality habitat for second growth coniferous forests within this designation.

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. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2012, activities on public lands generated \$4.6 billion in revenue, much of which was shared with the States where the activities occurred. In addition, public lands contributed more than \$112 billion to the U.S. economy and helped support more than 500,000 jobs.

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