

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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BLM Announces Little Hyatt Dam Decision

Medford, Ore. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has made a conditional decision to buttress Little Hyatt Dam.

The decision to buttress the dam will be implemented when BLM secures project funds and other conditions are met. The decision reverts to partial removal of the dam to an approximate height of six feet if the conditions are not met. Both alternatives meet the purpose and need for eliminating the risk of a catastrophic collapse and the liability associated with long term maintenance. The cost of buttressing the dam is estimated at \$625,000, of which the community is proposing to contribute \$150,000.

The cost of partially removing the dam is estimated at \$475,000. Safety is still the primary concern at Little Hyatt Lake. Until work on an alternative is completed, BLM will continue to regularly monitor the dam's condition and maintain the siphon system now in place to draw down the lake should the need arise.

"I greatly appreciate the efforts of the community supporters, the local state and federal elected officials, and the Oregon State Parks for helping to look for alternative ways for both the BLM and the community to attain an acceptable decision about the long term management of the dam, and I believe we have met our goal," said Ashland Resource Area Field Manager John Gerritsma.

Additional information about the Medford District can be found at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/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.

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