

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Open Houses Offered for the BLM's Draft Plan

Medford, Ore. – This spring, the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be offering several opportunities for the public to learn about the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for western Oregon management plan revisions.

These opportunities will be held in Medford and Grants Pass as follows:

- May 27: Open House, 4pm – 7pm, Ramada Conference Center McKenzie Room, 2250 Biddle Rd, Medford, OR
- June 17: Forest Management and Wildlife Workshop, 4pm – 7pm, Ramada Conference Center McKenzie Room, 2250 Biddle Rd, Medford, OR
- June 18: Recreation Workshop, 5pm – 8pm, Grants Pass High School Commons, 830 NE 9th St, Grants Pass, OR

The Draft RMP/EIS for western Oregon addresses a range of alternatives for the purposes of producing a sustained yield of timber, contributing to the recovery of threatened and endangered species, providing clean water, restoring fire adapted ecosystems, providing for recreation opportunities, and coordinating the management of lands surrounding the Coquille Forest with the Coquille Tribe.

The Draft RMP/EIS explains why the BLM is proposing a plan revision, presents a full spectrum of different management alternatives, and analyzes the environmental effects of the alternatives. Based on this analysis and comments that the agency receives on the Draft RMP/EIS, the BLM will prepare a Proposed RMP/Final EIS with the assistance of cooperating agencies.

“Some of the most productive forests in the world are managed by the BLM in western Oregon,” said BLM Oregon/Washington State Director Jerry Perez. “These forests provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and clean water. I encourage everyone to take a look at these documents, attend a public meeting, or explore the many online resources.”

With the publication of this Draft RMP/EIS, members of the public have 90 days (July 23) to provide written comments through the internet, email or postal mail.

To view the Draft RMP/EIS, submit comments, and see where other open houses and workshops are planned across western Oregon, please visit our website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/meetings.php>.

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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 mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In fiscal Year, 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

