

## BLM to Release Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Livestock Impacts Studies

**January 24, 2008** – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Medford District today announced that it has completed the studies of livestock impacts for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) and is releasing them to the public.

The 2000 CSNM Presidential Proclamation directed the Secretary of the Interior to "...study the impacts of livestock grazing on the objects of biological interest in the monument with specific attention to sustaining the natural ecosystem dynamics." The original projects defined by the *Plan for Studying the Impacts of Livestock Grazing on the Objects of Biological Interest* released in November 2005 are summarized into nine papers.

In the spring of 2008, the findings from the Livestock Impacts Studies, and all other available data, will be used in an evaluation to determine whether or not the allotments are meeting BLM's Oregon/Washington Standards for Rangeland Health. This information will also be used to determine if livestock grazing is consistent with the 2000 Presidential Proclamation.

A final decision will be issued at the end of 2008 which could maintain, modify, or cancel (retire) the existing grazing lease authorizations. At this point in time there is no formal public comment period. In the future the public will have several opportunities to be involved in the planning processes associated with the grazing within CSNM.

Awaiting the findings of the Livestock Impacts Studies and the final grazing decision, the BLM has continued to manage existing grazing allotments within the monument. Currently, eleven ranchers hold grazing leases for 2,714 active animal unit months within CSNM. An animal unit month represents the amount of forage required to support an "animal unit," or one mature 1000 pound cow and her calf, for one month.

The studies of livestock impacts are available on the internet at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/index.php>

A presentation of the results of the studies will be the subject of the February 1 "Science Friday" forum at the Southern Oregon University (SOU). The one hour presentation will begin at 3pm in Room 118 (Central Auditorium) in the Science Hall on the campus of SOU. BLM representatives will be available afterwards to answer questions.

For more information, contact Howard Hunter, Assistant Monument Manager, at:  
(541) 601-1876.

### 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 Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of subsurface 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, and cultural resources on the public lands.

###

