

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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BLM Extending Public Comment for Soda Mountain Wilderness Plan

Medford, Ore. --The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is extending the public comment period for the *Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment* for the Soda Mountain Wilderness area for an additional 15 days. The Soda Mountain Wilderness was created in March 2009 under the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-011). The law designated approximately 24,100 acres within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument as wilderness.

This plan will provide the primary guidance for the SMW. The goal of this plan is to provide for the long-term protection and preservation of the area's wilderness character under a principle of non-degradation. Key issues addressed in this plan include restoration, visitor use, wildfire management, and valid existing rights. The plan also addresses actions outside the wilderness area, including wilderness access, trailheads, and interpretive and educational information provided to the public.

All comments should be made in writing and mailed or delivered to Kathy Minor, Bureau of Land Management, Ashland Resource Area, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504. For additional information or clarification regarding the document or the planning process, please contact Howard Hunter or Kathy Minor at (541) 618-2200.

The BLM will be accepting input until November 8th, 2011. Additional information about the plan is available on the internet at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/csnm/csnm-management.php>

About the BLM: The BLM manages 245 million acres of public land known as the National System of Public Lands. The lands are primarily located in 12 Western states, including 75 million acres in Alaska. With a budget of about \$1 billion, the bureau 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.

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