

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM to hold public meeting for Oregon Badlands Wilderness Management Plan

PRINEVILLE, Ore. -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Prineville District Office will hold a public scoping meeting in Bend on March 1 to provide an overview of the Oregon Badlands Wilderness Management Plan process and timeline, and to accept public comments and answer questions related to the development of this plan.

The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Riverbend Community Room at the Bend Parks and Recreation District Office, located at 799 SW Columbia Street. The meeting will be open house style, with a short presentation from 7 until 7:30 p.m.

The BLM invites the public to share their input on relevant resource issues, which could include recreation, travel management, grazing, restoration and wilderness character. The public can also suggest additional organizations, groups or individuals who have an interest in the process.

Congress designated the Oregon Badlands Wilderness Area in 2009 as an area “where the earth and community of life are untrammelled by man, where man is himself a visitor who does not remain” (Wilderness Act, 1964). The designation requires a wilderness management plan, which will provides guidance for preserving and enhancing wilderness values while offering opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

More information about the Oregon Badlands Wilderness can be found on the Prineville BLM website <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/badlands/index.php>, or by calling Gavin Hoban at the Prineville BLM office at (541) 416-6879.

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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