

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3050 NE Third Street - Prineville, Oregon 97754 - www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
For release: April 17, 2013

Contact: Lisa Clark
(541) 280-9560

Public Input Requested on Proposed Geothermal Exploration

Hampton, Ore. – The Prineville District, BLM is requesting public input on a proposed project that would authorize the drilling, testing and monitoring geothermal exploratory wells on private and BLM-administered lands in Harney and Lake Counties near Glass Buttes, Oregon (south of Highway 20; 70 miles southeast of Bend, Oregon and 50 miles northwest of Burns, Oregon). If approved, the project would evaluate the potential of geothermal resources in the area.

The applicant, Ormat Nevada, Inc., proposes to drill up to 16 exploratory wells, each within a well pad ranging in size from 2 – 4 acres. Each well pad would accommodate a drill rig and other structures related to the operation. Access to each pad would be through existing or new aggregate access roads off of Highway 20. If approved, the applicant would begin work late summer 2013.

BLM is the federal regulatory agency responsible for managing the nation’s geothermal resources, including permitting subsurface exploration. Although three of the proposed wells are on private land, their development is dependent on Federal approval for the other wells; as such they are considered a “connected non-federal action.” The BLM can disclose the effects of the proposed wells on private lands; however, BLM only has the authority to approve, modify, or deny the application for those actions occurring on public lands.

The public is invited to review alternatives and provide input. The Midnight Point and Mahogany Geothermal Exploration Projects, Glass Buttes, Oregon Environmental Assessment is available online under “Documents Currently under Review” at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/index.php> or by requesting a paper copy from the Prineville District Office at (541) 416-6700 or the Burns District Office at (541) 573-4400.

The BLM will accept written comments until May 19, 2013 via:

FAX: (541-416-6798)

MAIL: 3050 N.E. 3rd St., Prineville, OR 97754

EMAIL: blm_or_pr_glass_buttes_geo_thermal@blm.gov (Attn: Glass Buttes Geothermal Project)

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available. While you can ask us withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

About the BLM: 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. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The

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Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. 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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BLM
Prineville District Office

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