

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Prineville Employee Named ‘National River Manager of the Year’

Prineville, Ore. -- Heidi Mottl, outdoor recreation planner for the Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Crook County resident, was presented today with a ‘National River Manager of the Year’ award. Bestowed by the River Management Society (RMS), a national non-profit professional organization headquartered in Maryland. Mottl was nominated for this prestigious award by commercial river outfitters, agency partners, her past and current supervisors, and BLM employees.

For more than fifteen years, Mottl has provided leadership in promoting and protecting natural, cultural and recreational resources on the John Day Wild & Scenic River including establishment of an integrated river management plan. Mottl’s initiatives to increase management of grazing and off-road vehicle use in riparian areas, protect cultural and paleontological values, enhance campsites, education, deter dumping and vandalism, and educate boaters on safety and proper etiquette, all contributed to improved conditions.

Working effectively and cooperatively with user groups, private landowners and general public land visitors, she elicited improved river condition through cooperation and encouraged behavior modification through education rather than law enforcement. Private landowners are encouraged to participate in river enhancement efforts and have a voice in overall river management.

Long-term partnerships were established to protect and manage the John Day Wild & Scenic River corridor. Mottl led an interagency group, comprised of four state agencies, three county governments, tribal governments and the BLM. This group collaboratively worked together toward river value protection and enhancement across jurisdictions.

Mottl promotes a positive and fulfilling experience for all who participate in the management and use of the John Day River. This includes fostering good relationships with noncommercial river users and commercial permittees. In 2011, a web-based limited access permit system was developed and implemented, under her guidance, where boaters obtain comprehensive river information and group permits on a 24/7 basis. The system has been successful in spreading use along the river corridor and reducing user conflict.

In the words of Associate District Manager Steve Robertson, “Heidi Mottl is a very dedicated employee; committed to providing the highest level of service to the people who visit our Wild & Scenic Rivers. We are honored that she has been nationally recognized for her achievements.”

Additional information about the Prineville District is available on-line at: blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/

The BLM manages more land – 245 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, 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. 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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