

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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For Release:
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Contact:
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BLM Seeks Public Comments on Rudio Highlands Fuels Treatment Projects

PRINEVILLE, Ore. -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Prineville District Office is currently seeking public comments on the Rudio Highlands Forest Management Project Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment analyzes a potential vegetative and hazardous fuels treatment project on isolated BLM-administered parcels of land 11.5-miles northeast of Dayville, Ore. The goal of the project is to improve the health of the forest and reduce the risk of wildfire.

The isolated BLM-administered parcels of land have vegetation that is overgrown, causing the trees to become unhealthy and susceptible to mountain pine beetle infestations. In addition, the risk of wildfire could severely damage the forest stands. The Environmental Assessment analyzed several alternatives to reduce the wildfire risk and improve the health of the forest stands, including a "No Action" alternative. Actions analyzed in the EA fall within the scope of the current John Day Basin Resource Management Plan (1985), and consider the updated Resource Management Plan which is pending.

Public comments on the Rudio Highlands Environmental Assessment will be accepted until November 21, 2011. Written comments can be sent by postal mail to: BLM Prineville District Office, Rudio Highlands EA, 3050 NE Third Street, Prineville, OR 97754; by e-mail: BLM_PR_OR_Rudio_Highlands_EA@blm.gov; or by fax: 541-416-6798.

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

For technical questions, please contact the project leads: Matt Shaffer at 541-416-6743 or Guy Chamness at 541-416-6719. For additional information or to view the plan electronically, please visit the on-line at www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans.

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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