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BLM Resource Advisory Committee Finalizes Funding Recommendations

ROSEBURG – September 3, 2009 – Stream enhancement work, weed control, environmental education, habitat restoration and youth programs could see funding through forest county payments. Those were among the projects that the citizen-based BLM Roseburg District Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) recommended for funding beginning this fall. The available funding for BLM Title II programs this year was approximately \$1,224,000.

On August 3, project proponents presented 26 proposals to the BLM RAC. At their August 31 meeting, the Roseburg BLM RAC chose 17 projects for full funding and three additional projects for partial funding, pending review by the Douglas County Commissioners and formal approval by the BLM. The money for Title II funding is made available through the reauthorized Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

The RAC recommendations include funding for non-profits and agencies outside of the BLM, including the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, the Glide Middle School, Wildlife Safari, Douglas County juvenile work crew and the Umpqua Basin Explorers program. Approved projects on BLM land include a variety of stream and habitat improvement and restoration projects.

Committee members individually ranked the projects and then worked through their list of common preferences to develop a final list of projects recommended for funding. Since 2002, the Roseburg BLM RAC has helped BLM administer more than \$14 million worth of projects providing long term habitat, infrastructure, economic and natural resource benefits to Douglas County.

The RAC is composed of 15 members who represent varied areas of expertise and interests, including recreation, timber, environmental, elected and school officials, and the public-at-large. The Roseburg District RAC has been recognized for collaborative work that has improved relationships among the people who use and care for public lands, and the federal agencies who manage them.

The next round of project applications will be due in the spring of 2010 and should be submitted to the BLM's Roseburg District Office. Contact Jake Winn at 541.464.3275 if you need application forms or have questions. More information is available online at <http://www.blm.gov/or/rac/ctypaysbrg.php>.

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