

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM Supervisor Receives Patriot Award

Roseburg, Ore. – On July 21, Bureau of Land Management Supervisor Al James received the Patriot Award from the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Program.

Roseburg District BLM Forester James Mahaffy nominated his supervisor for the award because, in his own words, "...I was offered a Forester position with the Roseburg Bureau of Land Management prior to my deployment to Iraq. The BLM held my Forester position for over a year and a half during my mobilization and deployment which provided me with great peace of mind knowing that my family would have financial security during an economic recession."

Dirk Kruysman, a retired National Guardsman and local Roseburg representative of the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve program presented the Patriot Award in a ceremony at the BLM office on July 21. The Patriot Award is given to supervisors who have demonstrated outstanding support of Army National Guard and Reserve members. Reservists nominate their supervisor through an online process. The vision of the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve program is to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees.

"The BLM and my supervisor are incredibly accommodating regarding my monthly Reservist Drills and the agency has also indicated support for upcoming training missions and future deployments. The sacrifice this organization has made and will continue to make needs to be recognized," continued BLM Forester James Mahaffy. Additional information is available online at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/index.php>

<http://www.esgr.org/site/>

About the BLM: 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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