

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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For Release: Immediate
Number: OR-100-2010-019

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BLM to Burn Noxious Weed Medusahead

Roseburg, OR – In an effort to control an annual grass known as Medusahead, the Bureau of Land Management is planning to conduct four prescribed burns this month. Three will take place on the North Bank Habitat Management Area (NBHMA) approximately three miles southeast of Sutherlin and ten miles northeast of Roseburg. The burns there are being designed and accomplished in cooperation with the Douglas Forest Protective Association, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The fourth burn will take place southeast of Tiller near Elk Creek in cooperation with the US Forest Service, Tiller Ranger District.

The burns are currently scheduled for late June, depending on favorable weather conditions.

Timing of this particular invasive noxious weed control project is critical. In order to be effective, the Medusahead seed must be burned after it has developed on the plant, but before it can harden and fall to the ground.

Medusahead, or as it is scientifically known, *Taeniatherum caput-medusae*, was accidentally introduced into the United States in the 1880s. It is officially designated as a noxious weed. It crowds out native grasses and forbs and more desirable livestock forage plants. After seed set, the silica-rich plants persist as a dense litter layer that prevents germination and survival of native plant species, and contributes to fire danger in the summer. Due to its high silica content, Medusahead is not a good forage plant for livestock or wildlife, except in very early growing season.

For more information about the Roseburg District BLM, visit:

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

For more information on the prescribed burn call Krisann Kosel at 541-440-4930.

The BLM manages more land – 256 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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BLM
Roseburg District Office

