

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

777 Garden Valley Blvd • Roseburg, Oregon 97471 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg>

For release: Immediate
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BLM to Perform Prescribed Burn at North Bank Habitat Management Area

(Roseburg, OR) – The BLM is planning to potentially burn 105 acres within the North Bank Habitat Management Area (NBHMA), approximately three miles southeast of Sutherlin, Oregon, along North Bank Road, beginning Tuesday, July 5, 2011, with burn completion by Friday, July 15, 2011.

The West entrance and Jackson entrance to the NBHMA will be closed during active burn periods for public safety.

The prescribed burn is an effort to control Medusahead, an invasive noxious weed, as well as reduce fuel loading and improve forage for the Columbian white-tailed deer.

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 the very early growing season.

The burns 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. For further information please contact Krisann Kosel, Fire Ecologist with the BLM, Roseburg District at (541) 440-4930.

For more information about the Roseburg BLM visit:

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

The BLM manages more land – more than 245 million 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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