

# NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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## BLM OPENS TIOGA BRIDGE AND EMERALD TRAIL

**Roseburg, Oregon** – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Roseburg District would like to announce the official grand opening of the Tioga Bridge and Emerald Trail, 28 miles east of Roseburg, along Highway 138.

“This is a momentous occasion,” said Max Yager, Swiftwater Field Manager. “This spectacular bridge and trail are great additions to the recreational opportunities folks can enjoy when visiting the North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River, the North Umpqua Trail and Susan Creek Recreation Area.”

The Tioga Bridge was constructed across existing piers from a bridge that washed out in the 1960’s. The new Tioga foot bridge provides access to the center of the 16 mile long Tioga Segment of the North Umpqua Trail. “This bridge effectively creates a midpoint for members of the public to access new areas of the North Umpqua Trail they may not have been able to hike to before,” Yager said.



Tioga Bridge ribbon cutting ceremony, May 17, 2013. From left to right, Elizabeth Stacey, ODOT Project Leader, Max Yager, BLM Swiftwater Field Manager, Jay Carlson, BLM Retired District Manager, Joe Laurance, Douglas County Commissioner.

“To reach the new bridge, we had challenges due to limited space and a narrow shoulder next to the roadway,” said Erik Taylor, Roseburg District Recreation Planner. “Working with



ODOT and a wide range of partners, part of Highway 138 was realigned and we constructed a connecting trail from the Tioga Bridge to the Susan Creek Day Use Area, .75 mile east of the bridge. This new trail is known as the Emerald Trail.”

“We really want to thank the many partners that helped make this

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project possible,” Yager said. “Without broad support over 20 years since this project was first proposed, we would not have this beautiful footbridge here today. I would like to give a special thanks to Gregg Morgan, retired Outdoor Recreation Planner for his years of work on this project, and the Oregon Department of Transportation, who provided technical support during the road realignment and contract administration with the bridge construction.”

For a video of the Tioga Bridge Project and a time lapse of bridge construction please visit the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56if3X1lwEQ&list=UUqNPQV287B9CXG8XZo7URag&index=1>

For more information about other BLM recreation opportunities please visit:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/>

For more information, please contact the BLM Roseburg at 541-440-4930.

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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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