

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Contact: Trish Hogervorst, Public Affairs
(503) 375-5657

BLM
Salem District Office

BLM Salem District Welcomes New Field Managers: *John Huston and Karen Schank*

Salem, Ore.— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Salem District Manager Kim Titus recently named John Huston and Karen Schank as new field managers in northwest Oregon. “I am looking forward to the wide depth of experience that both John and Karen bring to the BLM’s Salem District,” said Titus. “Both Karen and John have strong experience in working together with local groups.”

Karen Schank, is the new field manager for BLM’s Tillamook Resource Area. Schank began her BLM career in 1994 as a seasonal employee in Idaho. In 2005, she accepted the lead land surveyor position on the BLM’s Medford District. A year later she was promoted to assistant field manager for implementing natural resource programs which included timber, fuels, silviculture, recreation, minerals, botanicals, soil and water, wildlife, cultural and fisheries. Schank holds a Bachelor of Arts in German and Sociology from Luther College in Iowa and a Bachelor of Science in Land Surveying from Michigan Tech University.

“I’m excited to work with the Tillamook BLM staff and the community to continue their successful stewardship of public lands,” Schank said. She loves spending time outdoors with her dog, and is an avid hiker and cross country skier.

John Huston is the new field manager for the Cascades Resource Area. John has a forestry degree from Utah State University. Huston began his forestry career by working seasonal positions in forestry, biological and range technician jobs in the national forests and state parks of western Wyoming, Idaho, and southern Utah.

In 1995, Huston joined the U.S. Forest Service’s Rocky Mountain Research Station as a timber cruiser. He cruised timber throughout the interior western states, and then joined the BLM, in Pinedale, Wyoming as a geographic information systems specialist. He was promoted to assistant field manager over the Resources Division where he worked on the Greater Sage Grouse planning effort, the Pinedale Anticline natural gas development, and a project involving the historic Oregon Trail.

John recently completed three temporary promotion details as Field Office Manager for the Mary’s Peak office in Salem, for the Kemmerer Field Office in Wyoming, and as District Ranger for the Diamond Lake area on the Umpqua National Forest. “I look to leading the Cascades Resource Area in BLM’s Multiple Use Mission.” In his off hours, Huston likes to hike, backpack and fish, as well as travel and work on building projects with his wife Loretta.

Additional information about the Salem District is available online at: www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem

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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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