

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

1717 Fabry Road SE • Salem, Oregon 97306 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem>

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

For release: May 20, 2014

Contact: Steve Baldwin, Fishermen's Bend Mgr., 503-897-2406

Trish Hogervorst, Public Affairs Officer, 503-375-5657

Fishermen's Bend Campground Hosts Receive BLM 2014 National "Making a Difference Lifetime Achievement Award"

Salem, Ore.— Floyd and Opal Jensen, volunteer campground hosts at the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM), Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site, west of Mill City, have been awarded BLM's national "Making a Difference Lifetime Achievement Award," for contributing more than 17,000 hours of volunteer service at the park. "It's the people we meet each day that keep us coming back," said Floyd. A national ceremony will be held in Washington DC on May 29 at 1:00 PM eastern time. Floyd and Opal will receive their award at BLM's State Office in Portland, and they will participate in the Washington DC ceremony via video connection.

Nestled along a forested curve of the North Santiam River, Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site is popular with both families and large groups. The area offers family camps, picnic sites, group shelters, cabins, and river access trails. For the past eleven years, Floyd and Opal have arrived at Fishermen's Bend in early April to help prepare the park for opening. After the park opens, they greet and provide information to visitors, check in campers, sell firewood, keep the restrooms and campsites clean, train new hosts, and assist the park manager with the recycling program, volunteer youth groups, and invasive species removal. Floyd, a retired structural firefighter for 33 years, has used his wood working and mechanical skills to build cabinets, bird and bat houses, and to repair whatever needs to be fixed. In October, they help close the park, before driving their RV home to Merced, California where they spend the holidays with their family.

In addition to volunteering at Fishermen's Bend, Floyd was head coach for a Merced Little League baseball team for eight years; charity activities director for the Elks for 13 years and he has donated 15 gallons of blood to the Red Cross. He and Opal have been members of the Merced Union High School Band Boosters for 13 years, where Floyd is currently president.

For more information about BLM's Fishermen's Recreation Site go to:

http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/site_info.php?siteid=228

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

###

Come join the Oregon/Washington BLM on our Social Media sites for the latest on outdoor opportunities, videos of your public lands, spectacular photos, and a whole lot more!



www.facebook.com/blmoregon



www.youtube.com/user/blmoregon



www.flickr.com/photos/blmoregon



www.twitter.com/blmoregon

