

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
For release: **Immediately**

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Harvest Scheduled Within Molalla River Recreation Area

Salem, Ore. – Timber harvest operations are scheduled to begin this Wednesday, December 14th, 2011 within the Molalla River Recreation Area. Portions of the area will be temporarily closed to public access during active logging to protect public safety. These areas include the Molalla River Shared Use Trail System and Pinecrest Road. The project is expected to last until early March 2012.

“This winter is an excellent time to implement part of this project,” said Miles Brown, Salem BLM District Manager, “Our main goal is to minimize any risk to public safety and the timing means that fewer recreationists will be affected than during the peak of the high use summer season,” continued Brown.

These operations are part of the Annie’s Cabin Timber Sale, a forest thinning project aimed at reducing tree density in younger, high density stands which range from 40 to 80 years in age. Thinning will maintain the health and growth of developing stands, while providing timber to the marketplace. The sale will be harvested by Freres Lumber Company of Lyons, Oregon. Freres purchased the 10.5 million board foot sale in June 2007. Public scoping for the project first began in the spring of 2004.

Members of the public are being asked to avoid the active timber harvest operations, particularly within the Molalla River Shared Use Trail System. Active falling and yarding will be ongoing throughout the winter. In some cases, yarding will be performed by helicopters for the transportation of logs from timber sale units to authorized landings. Traffic may be stopped periodically along Molalla Forest Road to allow for safe overhead helicopter passage. Activities will not occur in or immediately adjacent to the Molalla River.

During planning for the sale the decision was made to incorporate helicopter yarding instead of ground-based skidding and hauling in units that are within the Molalla River Shared Use Trail System. This option was selected to mitigate long-term impacts to recreation use within the trail system, which is popular with equestrians, mountain bikers, and hikers.

For additional information visit the BLM at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem>

About the BLM: The BLM manages 245 million acres of public land known as the National System of Public Lands. The lands are primarily located in 12 Western states, including 75 million acres in Alaska. With a budget of about \$1 billion, the bureau 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.

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