

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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For Immediate Release:
November 12, 2009

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LUCKIAMUTE WATERSHED COUNCIL TO BE PRESENTED PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARD

SALEM, Ore. – On November 18, members of the Public Lands Foundation (PLF) will present the Luckiamute Watershed Council with the PLF's Landscape Stewardship Award for their efforts in community-based landscape stewardship on both public lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and on adjoining privately-owned lands.

In nominating the Luckiamute Watershed Council for the award, Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Salem District Manager Aaron Horton recognized the group for its high degree of initiative and leadership in working collaboratively with landowners, industries, businesses, schools, BLM and other agencies to plan and carry out dozens of projects to protect and enhance the lands, water and wildlife of the watershed.

The Luckiamute River watershed encompasses 200,000 acres of private and public lands in Polk and northern Benton Counties. The Council's Maxfield Creek project offers an impressive example of the community's work. Commercial logging by BLM cleared the way for restoration of a historic oak woodland and meadow. More than 150 logs were placed in Maxfield Creek to create pools for native fish, reduce erosion of river banks, and to re-create a meandering stream attractive to steelhead and other species. The culverts under several road crossings of streams were replaced with larger culverts that are no longer barriers to fish passage. In addition, more than one-half mile of logging road, which was slumping into Maxfield Creek, was moved uphill away from the stream. In times of tight budgets, these collaborative efforts by the Luckiamute Watershed Council volunteers, private landowners, BLM, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and other parties provide a model for future projects.

The Public Lands Foundation is a national non-profit organization, composed predominantly of retired BLM employees, who advocates and works for the retention of Public Lands in public hands, professionally and sustainably managed for responsible use and enjoyment by the American people. Through its annual Landscape Stewardship Award, the Public Lands Foundation honors the efforts of citizens who work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include public lands administered by BLM. The Award recognizes those groups or individuals who promote collaboration by a broad range of participants to achieve shared natural resource protection and enhancement goals.

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***About the BLM:** The BLM manages more land – 256 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.*

BLM
Salem District Office

