

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

100 Oregon Street • Vale, Oregon 97918 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale>

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BLM Announces Stimulus for Landscapes, Renewable Energy, And Job Creation

VALE, OREGON – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has announced that several eastern Oregon counties, including Baker and Malheur, will receive \$1.19 million for the following projects:

- **Capital Improvement:** Storage Buildings at the Rome and Minam Launch Sites;
- **Capital Improvement:** Heat Pump replacement at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC) for preservation of exhibits and historical displays;
- **Deferred Maintenance:** “Green Plan” for NHOTIC, to ensure compliance with an Executive Order that directs major renovations of agency buildings comply with the Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings.
- **Habitat Restoration:** Biomass utilization for energy production from two stewardship projects.
- **Trails and Road Deferred Maintenance:** Chip sealing all existing asphalt roads, parking areas and shop/work areas. Trail maintenance will repair and then overlay with 2 inches of asphalt over three miles of existing trail.
- **Habitat Restoration:** Utilizing two cooperative weed management agreements, funds would be used to provide for coordinated weed management efforts including treatment, inventory, monitoring, restoration and early detection and rapid response in Asotin County in Washington and Wallowa, Union and Baker, and Malheur Counties in Oregon.

The funding is part of \$32.9 million awarded to BLM to fund 60 projects throughout Oregon and Washington under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Nationally, BLM was awarded \$305 million that will fund more than 650 projects across the country. Overall, the Department of the Interior will manage \$3 billion in investments as part of the recovery plan signed by the President to jumpstart our economy, create or save jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The BLM investments include Renewable Energy Authorization, Habitat Restoration, Construction and Deferred Maintenance, Administrative Support, Abandoned Mines, Capital, Improvements, Roads and Bridges Maintenance and Construction, and Trails Maintenance and Construction

Project areas will meet all Federal environmental requirements and have been through the National Environmental Policy Act process. The public will be able to follow the progress of each project at:

www.recovery.gov

and at:

www.interior.gov/recovery

The Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has appointed a Senior Advisor for Economic Recovery, Chris Henderson, and an Interior Economic Recovery Task Force. Henderson and the Task Force will work closely with the Department of the Interior’s Inspector General to ensure that the



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recovery program is meeting the high standards for accountability, responsibility, and transparency that President Obama has set.

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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.

