

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-030-2015-01

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U.S. Forest Service Releases East Face Vegetation Management Proposal

Vale, Ore. – The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, La Grande Ranger District, has released a Proposal for Action affecting nearly 48,000 acres of public lands. The proposal concerns the East Face of the Elkhorn Mountains Partnership, a collaborative project that aims to reduce potential wildland and forest fire fuels; a goal of the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy (CWS) which coordinates similar activities with bordering State and privately owned lands.

The lands discussed in the proposal are located 20 miles south of La Grande along the east face of the Elkhorns, between Ladd Canyon and Anthony Lakes. The area includes parts of both Union and Baker Counties.

The affected lands have ownership split between both the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). As the BLM manages only 1,224 of the 47,621 affected acres, the USFS has drafted and is managing the proposal document, the details of which can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/EastFace.

Public comments on the East Face Vegetation Management Project Proposed Action are being sought through Feb. 13, 2015.

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.

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