

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

News Release: OR-030-2009-012

For Immediate Release

May 6, 2009

News Contact: Mark Wilkening, (541) 473-6218

Public Scoping Meeting Planned for the Trout Creek Geographic Management Area Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

VALE, OREGON-The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will hold an informal public scoping meeting on May 14th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Ameritel Inn, 425 SW Bluff Drive, Bend, OR 97702. The Environmental Impact Statement analysis area considered incorporates about 628,000 acres of co-mingled federal, private and state owned lands; BLM lands make up approximately 94% or about 580,500 acres.

The *Trout Creek Geographic Management Area Standards of Rangeland Health Evaluation* (June 2006) pertinent to this analysis area has been published and it is posted on the official Oregon and Washington BLM web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale/plans/inventas.php>. In Table A, this evaluation document identified by grazing allotment and pasture where current livestock use is considered a significant causal factor in a failure to meet the Fundamentals of Rangeland Health, or FRH (43 CFR 4180 federal grazing regulations). For this analysis area, the Jordan Field Manager determined that 23 grazing allotment pastures out of 74 considered (about 31%) did not meet the S&Gs for upland or riparian habitat reasons.

Because of these evaluation findings, BLM now needs to select an appropriate combination of grazing management and rangeland development remedies so that significant progress will be made towards meeting the “Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands in Oregon and Washington”, or OR/WA S&Gs (USDI BLM 1997).

Actions that will be addressed in an EIS pertain to 10 grazing permits currently active within 9 BLM grazing allotments including: Fifteen Mile Community (01201), McCormick (01202), McDermitt Creek (01205), Zimmerman (01203), Whitehorse Butte (01206), Campbell (11306), Albisu-Alcorta (01304), Tenmile (01308), and Barren Valley (10801). The rangeland health assessment and evaluation, which forms the basis for this planned EIS, includes the Vale Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Trout Creek Geographic Management Area (GMA) and the southern half of the Rattlesnake GMA.

Additional information about the Vale District can be found by visiting the district website at www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale.

-BLM-

The BLM manages more land – 258 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.

Vale District Office

BLM

