

## **Declaration of Cooperation BLM Statement of Support**

The Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management (BLM) supports the Renewable Energy Partnership and its efforts to enhance coordination and collaboration between stakeholders working on potential renewable energy development and conservation issues with the State of Oregon.

Nationally, the BLM manages sage-grouse habitat through eight state offices in the Western United States, and our conservation goal is to preclude the need for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Secretary of the Interior has established environmentally responsible development of renewable energy as a priority for the Department of the Interior and directed Interior bureaus to work collaboratively with States and other entities to achieve this goal (Secretarial Order No. 3285).

Oregon BLM district offices east of the Cascades have experienced a several-fold increase in the last five years in the number of applications for rights-of-way (ROW)s for possible wind development and other forms of renewable energy. Through Information Memorandum OR-2009-038, the BLM Oregon/Washington State Office has issued formal guidance to field units to maintain consistency with the State's recommendations for constructing wind energy grids in sage-grouse habitat. The purpose of the guidance is *"to maintain consistency with current science and recommendations provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife."* The BLM was also a partner in the 2005 Oregon Sage-grouse Conservation Strategy developed in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and other partners. This strategy is currently under update, including the recent identification of core sage-grouse habitat by the ODFW. The BLM Oregon State Office is also participating in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and ODFW to promote sage-grouse conservation.

### **Statement of Commitment**

The BLM supports the general goals and principles of the Renewable Energy Partnership. In accordance with Federal law, the BLM does not take a position or endorse any potential Renewable Energy Partnership recommendations that pertain to any form of lobbying or advocacy. In order to advance and support the Renewable Energy Partnership goals and principles that do not pertain to lobbying or advocacy, the Oregon/Washington BLM, within the constraints of available funding, will:

- support collaborative efforts with Renewable Energy Partnership participants, and support projects that achieve mutual goals and objectives.
- encourage Oregon/Washington BLM districts to continue their partnership efforts to support local community-based collaborative efforts that complement the Renewable Energy Partnership.
- continue to support the facilitation role of the Renewable Energy Partnership.

- provide staff and other resources to facilitate the renewable energy workshop proposed for fall 2010.
- provide access to Oregon/Washington BLM staff, programs, and initiatives to all stakeholders to achieve strategic objectives.
- incorporate consensus-based decisions reached by the Renewable Energy Partnership into statewide policy where appropriate.



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Edward W. Shepard  
State Director  
Oregon/Washington BLM

9/8/10

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Date