PORTLAND- Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is looking for volunteers to participate in the 15th annual National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 27, 2008. In what has become the largest volunteer hands-on effort of its kind in the country, participants will come together to lend a hand to the very lands they use to hike, bike, climb, fish, swim, explore, picnic, or just plain relax.

Individuals, families, and community groups of all ages are encouraged to come together to give something back to their public lands. T-shirts, lunches, and environmental education activities will be provided for the volunteers at each of the project sites. All tools, safety equipment, and materials needed for the projects will be furnished by the BLM.

“We are calling on volunteers to help restore, beautify, and improve the habitats and recreation areas that we all benefit from and enjoy”, said Ed Shepard, BLM State Director. “The BLM is committed to promoting stewardship and increasing volunteer opportunities for the public.”

For the fifth year, volunteers at federal sites will not only receive free admission on the day of the event, but also a coupon to return for a “fee-free” day any time in the next year at any site managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Volunteers range from Girl Scouts and senior citizens to corporate executives and Members of Congress -- they all have one thing in common: enjoyment and appreciation for our public lands.

Please note that some events may occur before the 27th due a conflict or another overlapping event. A complete listing of BLM events is attached. In addition, volunteers are encouraged to visit www.publiclandsday.com or www.blm.gov/or for complete information on events planned near you.

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about $1.8 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, and cultural resources on the public lands.

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Contact: Maya Fuller
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Oregon/Washington BLM Events
September 27, 2008

OREGON

Coos Bay
North Spit
Site improvements and noxious weed removal
Bob Golden (541) 756-0100

Eugene
West Eugene Wetlands Trail System
Trail maintenance, trash pick-up, weed removal, rehabilitation to erosion sites, sign installation.
Doug Huntington (541) 683-6600

Medford
Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Day (formerly Jenny Creek Day)
Nordic and snowmobile trail work, fence maintenance, and range restoration work.
Dennis Byrd (541) 618-2200

Eight Dollar Mountain Wayside Botanical Area
One-mile hiking trail construction to Illinois River, boardwalk maintenance, and guided tours.
Barbara Zurhellen (541) 618-2200

Salem
Marmot Dam Site
Site preparation, rehabilitation, planting native vegetation.
Zachary Jarrett (503) 375-5646

Roseburg
Susan Creek Campground
Fire ring installation, picnic table assembly, other improvements for ADA accessibility.
Ariel Hiler (541) 440-4930

Burns
Steens Mountain Wilderness
Fence removal in wilderness
Laura Dowlan (541) 573-4400

Lakeview
Christmas Valley Sand Dunes
(September 20)
Fence construction, sign installation, site maintenance
Kim McLean (541) 947-2177

Topsy Campground/Upper Klamath River
(September 20)
River clean-up, sign installation, bird and bat box installation/maintenance, riparian planting.
Scott Senter (541) 883-6916

Prineville
Deschutes Resource Area
Vegetation restoration, road closures, fence repair, removal of trash and unwanted material.
Molly Brown (541) 416-6700

Vale
Jordan Craters Cave Inventory
(September 12-14)
Inventory caves for public cave nomination process. Guided tours and presentations on 13th.
David Draheim (541) 473-3144

Washington

Spokane
McLoughlin Canyon Historical Landscape
Sign installation, trash clean-up, trail brushing, parking construction, overlook enhancement, weed pull and seeding with native grasses.
Diane Priebe (509) 665-2100