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Ed Shepard Named BLM State Director for Oregon and Washington

PORTLAND – Bureau of Land Management Director Kathleen Clarke announced today the appointment of Ed Shepard as the new director for the agency's state office in Oregon and Washington. Shepard is currently the BLM's assistant director for renewable resources and planning, and has held a variety of positions within the agency's Oregon and Washington operations.

"I am very pleased to appoint someone with such a deep understanding of the broad array of issues facing the BLM in the Pacific Northwest as state director," Clarke said. "Ed has demonstrated his mastery of a range of topics important to Oregonians and Washingtonians, from forest and rangeland management to fire fighting. This announcement is good news for the people of Oregon and Washington, and for the American public."

Shepard has 32 years of experience with the BLM. Prior to being named assistant director, he served as Oregon and Washington BLM Deputy State Director for Resource Planning, Use, and Protection; Deputy Director of the Office of Fire and Aviation at the National Interagency Fire Center; District Manager, Coos Bay, Oregon District; Chief of the Division of Forestry in the Washington Office; Area Manager in the Roseburg, Oregon District Office; Area Silviculturist in the Medford, Oregon District Office; and Area Forester and soil scientist in the Rawlins, Wyoming District Office.

"I am thrilled to be returning home to Oregon," Shepard said. "I have tremendously enjoyed the opportunity I've had these last few years to help shape the BLM's policies on resource management. But my heart lies in the Pacific Northwest, so I am looking forward to applying my experience in Washington, D.C. to the important natural resource issues facing Oregon and Washington."

Shepard also represents the BLM on the Forest Counties Payment Committee. This Congressional advisory committee was established under Public Law 106-291 to advise Congress on the oversight of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (Public Law 106-393), and to recommend solutions to the Congress for making adequate payments to states and counties where national forests and Oregon and California Grant Lands exist.

Shepard holds a M.S. in Forest Management from Washington State University, and a B.S. in Range and Forest Management from Colorado State University. He is also a Certified Forester with the Society of American Foresters, and has held several elected and appointed offices and committee assignments with SAF.

Ed and his wife Terry reside in West River, Maryland. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

The BLM manages more land – 261 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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