

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-09-17
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BLM Distributes Payments to Counties

Portland, Ore. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced today that it has issued payment to 18 counties in western Oregon eligible under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act extension, (Public Law 110-343). In Fiscal Year 2009, the amount paid to the Oregon & California (O&C) counties was \$94,855,173.

“As we implemented the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, it improved cooperative working relationships between the people who care about public lands and the Federal agencies. The results and outcomes have benefitted both the counties and the Federal government while improving existing infrastructure, land health, and water quality,” said Oregon/Washington State Director Ed Shepard.

Under the O&C Lands Act of 1937, the BLM paid 50 percent of timber receipts to the general fund of 18 O&C counties in western Oregon. The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act was originally passed into law in 2000 to provide a predictable payment to counties, in lieu of funds derived from Federal timber harvests. Since 2001, the 18 counties in western Oregon have received over \$110 million annually to replace receipts lost due to reduced timber harvest.

For 2009, over \$7 million was allocated to fund more than 150 projects on BLM lands in western Oregon. Most projects had additional support from their communities, including cooperator funding and in-kind contributions. Projects have provided trail maintenance, culvert replacement or removal, soil improvement, vegetation/density management, wildfire hazard reduction, stream channel enhancement, control of noxious and exotic weeds, and opportunities for youth training and employment.

Additional information about the O&C Lands Act of 1937 is available online at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/rac/ctypayhistory.php>

About the BLM

The BLM manages more land – 253 million surface 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.

