Fireworks and Exploding Targets Banned on BLM-Managed Lands in Oregon and Washington

Portland, OR – Effective June 1, 2013, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prohibits the use of fireworks and exploding targets on all BLM-managed public lands throughout Oregon and Washington.

“We have some amazing places among the 16 million acres of lands managed by the BLM in Oregon and Washington. Fire season started early for us here in Oregon. We have had more than a dozen wildfires that were mostly concentrated in central and southwest Oregon. Our fire analysts anticipate above normal fire potential across much of Oregon,” explained Jerry Perez, State Director for BLM Oregon/Washington.

“In anticipation of the early fire potential, the ban on fireworks and exploding targets has been moved up this year. Summer, including the upcoming 4th of July holiday, is a great occasion for families and friends to get outside and enjoy our public lands. Please do so carefully. Help protect our wildlife habitats, watersheds, rangelands, and forests – the lands that work for you,” said Perez.

Those who ignite fireworks or exploding targets on BLM-managed lands can be fined up to $1,000, receive a prison term of up to one year, or both. In addition, individuals responsible for starting wildland fires on federal lands can be billed for the cost of fire suppression.

The BLM cooperates with the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group to fight wildland fires in the Pacific Northwest. The Geographic Area Coordination Center offers routine updates on the fire potential regionally and nationally. The NW Coordination Center offers updates on current fire situations in the Pacific Northwest.

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About the BLM

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than $130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly $5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a $1.1 billion budget. 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.

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