

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM
Oregon State Office

Western Oregon planning team hosts community listening sessions

PORTLAND, Ore. – As part of a continued conversation with the public about the planning effort in western Oregon, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is hosting four community listening sessions to lay the foundation for constructive dialogue by sharing information and listening to initial thoughts and concerns about key natural resources and forest management issues in western Oregon.

The Resource Management Plans (RMP) for Western Oregon project covers 2.5 million acres in western Oregon in a checkerboard diverse landscape with multiple interests. The BLM is preparing the RMPs to meet the social, cultural, economic, needs of western Oregon. Many people care about these lands and how they are being used. Whether it's where you live, work, or recreate; it's your backyard. The BLM recognizes that we need the public input on these complex forestry challenges in western Oregon. We want to integrate public values and perspectives into the planning process. We're inviting you to join the dialogue to find solutions to the challenges that will ultimately result in predictable outcomes.

“The community listening sessions are designed to hear from the people in western Oregon and listen to their reactions and thoughts on key issues such as timber production, endangered species conservation and recovery, protection of old growth forests, and providing clean water,” explains Jerome Perez, BLM State Director for Oregon. “It's important that we connect with our communities and have a constructive dialogue about these key issues.”

The Community Listening Sessions will include BLM updates on the planning process and how it relates to the key issues being discussed. Attendees will then have a chance to share their input with the BLM and each other through small group discussions. The event will conclude with identified future opportunities to stay involved.

The meetings will occur:

- December 3, 2013 at 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. in Corvallis at the Siuslaw National Forest Office
- December 10, 2013 at 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. in Medford at the Jackson County Fairgrounds
- December 11, 2013 at 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. in Coos Bay at the North Bend Public Library
- December 18, 2013 at 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. in Roseburg at the Douglas County Fairgrounds

Doors will open 30 minutes in advance. All are encouraged to attend a community listening session.

More listening session information is at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/meetings.php> with up to date times, locations, and an easy RSVP option to secure your spot in one of the public meetings.

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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. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2012, activities on public lands generated \$4.6 billion in revenue, much of which was shared with the States where the activities occurred. In addition, public lands contributed more than \$112 billion to the U.S. economy and helped support more than 500,000 jobs.

Come join the Oregon/Washington BLM on our Social Media sites for the latest on outdoor opportunities, videos of your public lands, spectacular photos, and a whole lot more!

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