

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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BLM Statement Regarding Sugar Pine Mining Claimants and Demonstration

MEDFORD, Ore. – Tomorrow, April 23, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) expects that demonstrations may be held at some BLM offices in Oregon. Due to the expected activity and concern for public and employee safety, the Medford and Grants Pass offices will be closed for public business on Thursday, April 23. Members of the public are encouraged to reschedule planned visits to the offices for that day.

Below is a statement from Tom Gorey, BLM Spokesperson:

“This afternoon, the BLM received the appeal from the Sugar Pine mining claimants and will begin the formal review process. We appreciate and share the mining claimants’ interest in peacefully resolving the matter through the normal regulatory and administrative processes that are in place for such matters.”

“The safety of our employees and the public continues to be our top priority as we serve the American people in managing their public land. We encourage any demonstrations to remain peaceful.”

The BLM is responsible for the oversight of mining operations on federal land, including the Sugar Pine mine near Grants Pass, Oregon. A cabin and equipment were found at the site indicating operations inconsistent with standard requirements for developing mines. The BLM notified the miners that they can file a plan of operations, remove the unauthorized structures, or appeal the BLM’s decision. Mining claimants with similar concerns have routinely followed the legal procedures for resolving similar issues.

Members of the media seeking additional information may contact Jim Whittington at (541) 261-0424

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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