

BLM -Connecting with Local Communities

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Residents of the Pacific Northwest have always been defined by a strong relationship with the outdoors. This relationship continues to influence and shape the character of western Oregon. Today, a hike on our local trails, a family camping trip or an afternoon fishing on the river with our grandchildren can restore our connection to the natural world and create lasting memories. These experiences strengthen our sense of pride in where we live and the shared responsibility for our natural areas. In partnership with local community members and cooperating agencies, we seek your input as we move into a new era in western Oregon.



The BLM is privileged to manage lands that provide significant contributions to individual and economic health across the region. These lands are both the frontier and our backyard; where we live, play, escape and reconnect with the outdoors. It is the long standing reputation and diversity of natural settings that attracted me to the Northwest. This same reputation brings over five and a half million visitors to BLM-administered lands in western Oregon each year to, for example, float the wild and scenic Rogue River, sightsee on the Oregon Coast at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, and mountain bike the innovative Sandy Ridge trail system.

Oregon's mountains, rivers, beaches and trails not only give beauty to the districts; they provide a source of revenue for the local communities and the state. Tourism is one of the strongest industries in Oregon, and recreation related business and enterprises have become powerful elements of rural and urban economic development. In addition to the economic upside, the personal benefits are far reaching. An active outdoor lifestyle can lead to reduced health maintenance costs, a positive sense of community and improved mental well-being.

The BLM has a long standing track record of investment when it comes to quality of life in western Oregon. Over the last decade, the BLM has reinvested over 30 million dollars through a fund called the "recreation pipeline." This fund has invested directly into BLM recreation infrastructure within local communities to both improve existing recreation areas and to develop new sites.

The reinvestment of these public funds back into communities makes one thing perfectly clear: investing in recreation is a gain, not a drain, on the region we love. The BLM along with our people and programs provide a positive economic impact on the diverse portfolio that comprises our local economy.

As part of the Resource Management Planning effort in Western Oregon, we are reaching out to the public, asking for input to the planning process regarding recreation and Wild and Scenic Rivers. We hope you'll get involved: Jan 29.th in Medford, Jan. 30th in Roseburg, Jan. 31st in Eugene, and Feb. 5th in Portland. For more information, on times and locations, visit <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/>