

# Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

## Headwaters Forest Reserve Newsletter

### Spring 2008

### Dear Friends of Headwaters Forest Reserve

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an update on projects completed in 2007 and projects planned this summer. All projects in both 2007 & 2008 are consistent with the guidelines identified with the Resource Management Plan (June 2004).

In 2007, approximately 3/4 miles of legacy roads and five stream crossings were decommissioned in the Salmon Creek watershed. In the Elk River corridor, seven culverts were replaced and 1.1 miles of trail were paved to comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The complete list of projects planned for 2008 are listed below.

### Elk River Corridor Projects (north end)

#### Elk River Trail Closures

During reconstruction and restoration, the BLM will close the Elk River Trail and parking lot due to congestion implementing these projects simultaneously. We estimate that renovation and restoration activities will take approximately 6 weeks. **We anticipate the Elk River Trailhead and parking lot will be closed to the public for approximately 4 weeks.** Renovation of the parking lot and watershed restoration work will likely commence in mid July. The BLM will ensure the Elk River Trail closure will be kept to the shortest time-frame possible. We will update closure time periods in local newspapers, on our website and at Headwaters access points. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Arcata Field Office.



Restoration Efforts

#### Parking Lot Improvements

The existing parking lot will be reshaped and surfaced with “eco-friendly” permeable pavers. This pavement alternative will filter rain water, allow plants to grow inside each paver and provide a hardened surface to meet ADA standards. An emergency phone will be installed to enhance public safety.

#### Bridge Removal

The BLM is planning to remove a rusted flat car bridge and recontour the stream channel and flood plain to re-establish the natural stream channel and reduce sediments reaching the South Fork Elk River.

#### Train Barn Construction

Beginning May 5th, the Falk train barn will be moved and reconstructed along the Elk River Trail. To assure the public’s safety, portions of Elk River Trail will be closed intermittently when cabled operations are moving the remnants of the barn across the river. We will be converting this historic structure into an interpretive exhibit and education facility.



Future Train Barn Site



BLM

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Future Train Barn Site

## **Landslide Assessment**

The large landslide will be assessed to determine if mitigation measures can be implemented to stabilize the slide and /or reduce the discharge of fine sediment into the Elk River.

## **Humboldt State University (HSU) Cooperative**

Archaeological testing will be completed through a cooperative agreement between the BLM and HSU's Department of Anthropology. Archaeology students will recover, analyze, and report on historic artifacts.

## **Environmental Education**

Approximately 340 local elementary students will participate in the guided Headwaters Habitat and Home field trips. Curriculum includes the local history of Falk, analyzing historical artifacts and the unique ecosystems of Headwaters.



Students with Archeologist

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## **Salmon Pass Projects (south end)**

### **Forest Restoration**

Forest thinning using lop and scatter of dense plantations will occur on 200 acres in the Elk Head Springs and Alicia Pass areas. Forest restoration offers one of the best opportunities for wildlife habitat enhancement by accelerating the development of mature forest conditions.

### **Salmon Creek Loop Trail**

In cooperation with the C.C.C., the BLM will complete construction of one mile of the Salmon Creek Loop trail which will be accessible from the Salmon Pass Loop Trail.

### **Road Decommissioning**

Culvert removal, road decommissioning and tree planting will continue in the Salmon Creek watershed. The work will be completed in partnership with Pacific Fish, Wildlife & Wetlands Restoration Association with funding provided by the California Department of Fish and Game and BLM.

### **Guided Tours**

The Salmon Pass access into the Headwaters will not be affected by restoration and renovation activities. Guided tours will begin on May 15th, 2008 and continue to November 15th, 2008 (weather permitting). Guided hikes need to be scheduled by contacting the Arcata Field Office.



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A Headwaters Forest Reserve Managers Report for projects completed in 2007 is available on our website:

<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/arcata/headwaters.html>