

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM
Roseburg District Office

BLM to Restrict Unregulated Firearms at North Bank Ranch

Roseburg, OR- The Roseburg District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing a “Notice of Closure of Lands to Discharge of Firearms and to Use of Traps” for the North Bank Habitat Management Area. The proposal would be to continue previous firearm restrictions by prohibiting the unregulated discharge of firearms and the use of traps in the North Bank Habitat Management Area.

The 6,581-acre North Bank Habitat Management Area is an Area of Critical Environmental Concern which was acquired by the BLM to be managed as secure habitat for the Columbian White-tailed Deer and also provides habitat for several species of sensitive plants.

When the North Bank Habitat Management Area was initially acquired in 1994, a firearms restriction was in affect. That restriction has expired and the BLM plans to renew the restriction. Non-motorized recreation (such as hiking, biking, hunting and equestrian) is allowed on the North Bank Habitat Management Area. Hunting is still permitted on the North Bank Habitat Management Area , including special hunts specifically established for the area, as regulated by the State of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Public can access the North Bank Habitat Management Area through a system of well-maintained roads and designated trails that allows for dispersed recreational use. The area is open to the recreating public throughout the year. Prohibiting the unregulated discharge of firearms and the use of traps in the North Bank Habitat Management Area will provide for increased safety of recreational users and reduce disturbance to wildlife especially during critical reproductive periods.

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The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. 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 BLM accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

