



NEWS RELEASE

<p>Bureau of Land Management Medford District 3040 Biddle Road Medford , Oregon 97504 Phone: (541) 618-2200 Fax: (541) 618-2400</p>	<p>Grants Pass Interagency Office 2164 NE Spalding Avenue Grants Pass, OR 97526 Phone (541) 471-6500 Fax: (541) (541) 471-6673</p>	<p>Contact: Chris Owens, BLM Medford District Law Enforcement Ranger, Phone: (541) 541-618-2459</p> <p>Contact: Patty Burel, Public Affairs Officer Phone: (541) 618-2424 Cell Phone: (541) 941-4268</p>
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLM SEEKS TIPS IN CAR BURNING INCIDENT

Medford, OR, June 28, 2006 –BLM Medford District law enforcement personnel is asking for any public tips in a hunt for careless partygoers who set fire to an automobile on public lands in the Ashland Resource Area, Medford BLM District. .

“We want to protect our public lands and when people trash areas and set cars on fire, it causes pollution and reduces the scenic and recreational experience for everyone,” said Chris Owens, BLM Medford District Law Enforcement Ranger. “With fire danger rapidly increasing, an ember from a burning car, even in the middle of a rock pit, can start a wildfire on adjacent wildlands,” said Owens.

On June 8, 2006, a BLM Law Enforcement Ranger located a car that had been burned at the Lower Shale City gravel pile off of Lower Shale City Road. The Lower Shale City Road is located off of Dead Indian Memorial Highway. The car appeared to have been intentionally set on fire the previous night. Six small trees ranging from two to eight inches in diameter were cut nearby and placed on top of the vehicle and burned.

The car appears to have been burned during a large party that had taken place at the Lower Shale City gravel pile. "Removing this vehicle and properly disposing of it as well as cleaning up the area will cost taxpayers money," said Owens.

BLM Law Enforcement officials said that the party may have involved students as trash strewn across the site of the burned car included Southern Oregon University plastic beer cups, beer cans, glass beer bottles, liquor bottles, food wrappers and a propane tank.

BLM Law Enforcement is asking for anyone who has information regarding this event including information of the burned car to please contact BLM Law Enforcement at 1-800-267-0038. You may remain anonymous.

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