

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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BLM HOLDS FIELD TOUR OF PROPOSED FUELS DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN THE CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT

Medford, OR – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is holding a field tour for a proposed fuels treatment demonstration project in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM).

The field tour will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning at the Pinehurst Elementary School, twenty-two miles east of Ashland, on the Greensprings Highway (State Highway 66). The tour will take approximately 4-5 hours so people are advised to bring along a sack lunch.

The demonstration project would reduce hazardous fuels in six different locations within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) in the monument. Treatments may include prescribed fire (handpile burning and underburning) and thinning. The six demonstration units total 91 acres and are spread throughout the WUI near residences and private property along Hwy 66 in the Greensprings community. The majority of the private lands have recently been treated to reduce fuels. These demonstration units would be the BLM's first step in completing the overall community wildfire protection strategy.

As part of the National Fire Plan, the Oregon Department of Forestry identified the Greensprings as a "community at risk" for wildland fire spreading from public to private lands. Likewise, resources in the CSNM are also at risk from fires that originate on private land.

"We are starting with small demonstration units" said John Gerritsma, Ashland Resource Area Field Manager. "We want to show the community and others interested in the monument the results of these kinds of fuels reduction treatments prior to planning on a larger scale in the wildland-urban interface. The results from this demonstration project will be used in designing and implementing similar projects in the future."

This demonstration project is the first implementation action since the August release of the CSNM management plan which set forth the final direction for managing the of BLM lands. The plan also provides the strategies needed to protect and preserve the biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational and scientific values within the monument.

The 2000 Presidential Proclamation reserved the 52,947 acre Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in recognition of its remarkable ecology and to protect a diverse range of biological, geological, aquatic, archeological, and historic objects. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is the first monument set aside solely for the preservation of biodiversity. Due to several complex biological and geological factors and processes operating simultaneously, the monument contains an unusually high variety of species in a geographically small area.

Questions about the project should be directed to Howard Hunter, Assistant Monument Manager, BLM Medford District Office at (541) 618-2256 or Kevin Kocarek at (541) 618-2261. More information, including a map, is available on the Medford District BLM website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/index.php>. This also begins the scoping process for the project. Any comments or concerns can be sent to John Gerritsma at the BLM Medford Field Office located at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504, (541) 618-2200.

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About the BLM

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 Bureau, 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 Bureau 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.

About the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is part of the Bureau's National Landscape Conservation System, created in June 2000 to bring into a single system some of the most remarkable landscapes found on public lands in the west. In total, the Bureau manages over 800 units in the National Landscape Conservation System including National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historical Trails, and Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. The Monument's remarkable ecology is a product of its location at the crossroads of two different mountain ranges – the Cascades and the Siskiyou – as well as its proximity to the Great Basin.

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