



## BLM News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
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**For Immediate Release**  
**Release No. OR-100-2007-001**

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### **Jim Talburt and the Motley Crew Win National Trail Worker Award**

Roseburg, OR – Jim Talburt (of Roseburg, OR.) and his “Motley Crew” have won an American Trails’ National Trail Worker Award. Based upon a nomination from the Bureau of Land Management, the volunteer group is being recognized for their years of service on the public lands, primarily for their trail maintenance and proactive stewardship to improve recreational opportunities for all. A local recognition and award ceremony will be held on November 16 at 10:00 a. m. at the BLM’s Susan Creek Falls trailhead, approximately 8 miles east of Glide, Or.

American Trails is an organization working toward a national infrastructure of trails and greenways. Through education, communication, and partnerships, they pursue quality trails and greenway corridors that offer places for solace, health, fitness, recreation and transportation. Every two years, American Trails presents National Trails Awards to recognize the contributions of those working to create a national system of trails. Awards were officially presented on October 21 at the 18<sup>th</sup> National Trails Symposium in the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois. Only one Trail Worker Award is presented in each state. Jim Talburt and The Motley Crew have been chosen as Oregon’s recipient.

In 1997, after working 31 years on the Umpqua National Forest, mostly in road engineering, Jim Talburt retired from the U.S. Forest Service. In 1998, Talburt founded the Motley Crew.

Talburt’s work in the Umpqua National Forest as a Forest Trails Coordinator left him familiar with the amount of trail work that remains undone each year. He knew the forest constantly faces funding shortfalls for trail maintenance. Talburt organized the volunteer crew and convinced the Forest Service and BLM to provide tools for the crew and reimburse them for mileage.

In 2000, the Motley Crew received a Forest Service contract to clear logs from 95 miles of trail. Seventy five miles of these trails were in designated wilderness where no power equipment was allowed. As a result, Jim developed a strong affinity for crosscut saws, and the crew finished the contract on schedule.

The hard-working volunteer trail maintenance crew continues to work every Thursday and averages about 2,000 hours each year. All members are over the age of 62, with some in their 70s. Besides Talburt, its other members include Frank Walter, Ned Davis, Ken Jensen, Chuck Young, Steve Sand, Lou Wolf, John Rosenberger, Ed Malmsten and Jim Owen.

Supporters are invited to join the group for breakfast at Munchies (Glide, Or.) on Thursday, November 16 at 8:00 a. m. preceding the formal presentation of the Trail Work Award will follow at 10:00 a. m. at the Susan Creek Falls trailhead. Following the ceremony, an optional 1-mile hike to Susan Creek Falls and Indian Mounds will be conducted. A volunteer cleanup of the area will also be conducted in support of

National Family Volunteer Day.

According to Jay Carlson, Roseburg District Manager for the BLM, “Volunteers are among our most respected and valued resources. Talburt’s crew is a tremendous asset since it is made up of people who worked as foresters and know how to handle any sort of trail situation. Their knowledge level is tremendous. They are clearly strong believers in making the recreational experience more enjoyable for all.”

For others wanting to volunteer with the BLM, all opportunities nationwide are also listed on-line at <http://www.volunteer.gov/gov>

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