

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
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\$3.63 MILLION IN RECOVERY ACT FUNDING FOR HARNEY COUNTY

HINES, Oregon – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District announced today Harney County will receive \$3.63 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 [Recovery Act]. The funds are slated for three separate projects:

- 1) Steens Loop Road Reconstruction, Phase 1 – establish three rock material sources along the road alignment, producing approximately 240,000 cubic yards of base and surface aggregate for future placement, and survey to identify areas where drainage must be reestablished;
- 2) Five Creeks Rangeland Restoration, Phase 1 – complete prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to restore the project area to more historic plant community conditions; and
- 3) Otis Mountain Forest Health - reduce hazardous fuels, increase forest health, and provide a source of biomass fuel for eastern Oregon.

Work on these projects is expected to begin within the next 3 months and occur for 12-18 months thereafter as needed. The agency will contract a majority of the work with the private sector.

The \$3.63 million award to BLM's Burns District is part of \$32.9 million overall for BLM to fund 60 projects throughout Oregon and Washington.

The public will be able to follow the progress of each project on www.recovery.gov and on www.interior.gov/recovery. An Interior Economic Recovery Task Force will work closely with Department's Inspector General to ensure that the recovery program is meeting the high standards for accountability, responsibility, and transparency that President Obama has set.

For more information about Recovery Act projects in Harney County, contact Tara Martinak at the Burns District BLM office at [541] 573-4519.

About the BLM:

The BLM manages more land – 256 million acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 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, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

