

BLM Announces Stimulus Investment in Southern Oregon to Restore Landscapes, Develop Renewable Energy, and Create Jobs

Contact: Jim Whittington, 541-618-2220, jim_whittington@blm.gov

Medford, OR – March 5, 2009 – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has announced that the Medford District will receive \$6.212 million for the following nine projects:

- 1) Remediation work on the Almeda Mine.
- 2) Abandoned mine surveys in historical mining districts.
- 3) Abandoned mine clean-up and safety improvements.
- 4) Installation of solar panels to supply the Medford Interagency Office with electricity.
- 5) Improvements of solar electrical systems at the Rogue River Ranch and Zane Grey Cabin sites.
- 6) Installation of a septic system at Hyatt Lake Campground.
- 7) Road resurfacing and culvert replacement in the Glendale Resource Area.
- 8) Biomass utilization through existing stewardship contracts.
- 9) Trail maintenance and repair throughout the District.

The nine projects take place in Jackson, Josephine, Curry, and Douglas counties and account for almost 20% of available BLM funds across Oregon and Washington. “We’re excited about the jobs these projects will create and the improvements to our public lands that will now take place,” said Tim Reuwsaat, District Manager.

The funding is part of \$32.9 million awarded to BLM to fund 60 projects throughout Oregon and Washington under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Nationally, BLM was awarded \$305 million that will fund more than 650 projects across the country. Overall, the Department of the Interior will manage \$3 billion in investments as part of the recovery plan signed by the President to jumpstart the economy, create or save jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so the United States can thrive in the 21st century. The BLM investments include the following types of projects:

- Renewable Energy Authorization
- Habitat Restoration
- Construction and Deferred Maintenance
- Administrative Support



NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3040 Biddle Road • Medford, Oregon 97504 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/medford>

- Abandoned Mines
- Capital Improvements
- Roads and Bridges Maintenance and Construction and
- Trails Maintenance and Construction

Project areas will meet all federal environmental requirements and have been through the National Environmental Policy Act process.

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

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.

-BLM-

