

# NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
For release: February 20, 2009

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## **BLM SEEKING INPUT ON THE DRAFT TIMBER MOUNTAIN RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Medford Oregon** – The Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is distributing copies of the draft Timber Mountain Recreation Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and inviting all interested publics to review the document and provide comments. The draft Timber Mountain Recreation Management Plan has been developed to guide off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the Timber Mountain Special Recreation Management Area, also commonly referred to as *John's Peak*.

**There will be two opportunities for the public to meet with BLM to hear about the draft Timber Mountain Recreation Management Plan and provide the BLM with input:**

**March 5:** An open house is scheduled to provide the public with information and answer questions concerning the draft Timber Mountain Recreation Management Plan and planning process.

**April 2:** A public comment forum will be held to allow interested publics to voice their ideas or concerns. More details on this second meeting will be forthcoming in March.

### **Open House with Presentations**

**Date:** March 5, 2009

**Time:** 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

**Short Presentations:** 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM

**Location:** Ramada Inn  
2250 Biddle Road  
Medford, Oregon 97504

### **Public Comment Forum**

**Date:** April 2, 2009

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** BLM Interagency Office  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, Oregon 97504

The 15,114-acre Timber Mountain Special Recreation Management Area is generally situated to the west of the City of Jacksonville, and south of the Interstate-5 corridor in Jackson County, in southwestern Oregon. OHV enthusiasts have recreated in the Timber Mountain Special Recreation Management Area for over 40 years, and OHV use has significantly increased in recent years.

The draft Timber Mountain Recreation Management Plan will identify trails and roads to be designated and managed to provide for OHV use. According to John Gerritsma, Ashland Resource Area Field Manager, "We are working to provide a quality OHV recreation experience while protecting resources and improving visitor safety."

Alternatives in the draft Timber Mountain Recreation Management Plan consider reductions in OHV trail use ranging from 63 to 92 percent over what is currently used. Approximately 31 to 140 miles of roads and trails would be opened to OHVs instead of the 376 miles of roads and trails on public and private land that are currently used. Trail decommissioning is also proposed to restore



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watershed conditions, prevent unintended trespass on adjacent private lands, and to protect resources.

OHV route alternatives were developed consistent with the new 2008 Medford District Resource Management Plan direction, which requires the designation of final OHV routes within five years.

Questions about the plan should be directed to Kristi Mastrofini of the BLM Medford District Office at (541) 618-2384. Additional information about the draft Timber Mountain Recreation Management Plan is also available online at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/index.php>.

## 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.

Medford District Office

BLM

