

**NEWS RELEASE
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, VALE DISTRICT OFFICE, 100 OREGON STREET, VALE, OREGON 97918

BLM to hold scoping meetings in Vale/McDermitt

VALE, Oregon – The Bureau of Land Management will hold two public scoping meetings this month to discuss upcoming evaluations of the Barren Valley and Rattlesnake Geographic Management Areas in southeastern Oregon/northeastern Nevada.

The first meeting will be held July 26 at 6 p.m. (PDT) at the Community Hall in McDermitt, Nevada.

The second meeting is scheduled for July 28 at 1 p.m. (MDT) in BLM's Vale District Office, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, Oregon.

The GMA evaluation process is a resource assessment tool that groups adjoining grazing allotments, rather than reviewing them individually. Management criteria identified in the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan will be factored into the process.

Assessment work will be conducted this summer on the following grazing allotments: Barren Valley GMA - Sheepheads (10702), Black Hill (01309), Jackie Butte Winter (01103), Crooked Creek (10806), Coyote Lake (10804), Bowden Hills (10803), and Barren Valley (10801); and Rattlesnake GMA – Sherburn (11303), Echave (21302), Gilbert (21301), and Eiguren (11305). The Ten Mile (01308) and Albisu-Alcorta (01304) allotments were included in the recently completed Trout Creek GMA assessment and evaluation.

Both public scoping sessions will provide an overview of the GMA evaluation process and seek to identify any additional issues or concerns and resource information or data that may be available.

Comments must be submitted in writing to the Vale District Office, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, OR 97918 or e-mailed to Vale_mail@or.blm.gov no later than close of business August 31, 2006.

Anyone with questions about the scoping meetings or the upcoming GMA evaluations should contact Bill Lutjens or Carolyn Freeborn at (541) 473-3144.

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