



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **BLM SEARCHING FOR JOY RIDER; SEEKS PUBLICS HELP IN BULLDOZER INCIDENTS**

**Medford, OR, June 16, 2006** – BLM Medford District law enforcement personnel are seeking the publics help in finding a person or persons who went joy riding on a privately owned bulldozer, causing extensive damage to small trees and roads on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed lands in the Fall Creek area, outside of Glendale.

The bulldozer or cat was left at the job site about three miles southwest of Glendale, Oregon at a private timber sale operated by the Swanson Group. The bulldozer equipment belongs to Mike Peavyhouse Logging out of Glendale who is a contractor for Swanson Group.

The first incident reported on June 2, 2006 took place sometime between May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 2. During this time, someone climbed into the operator's bulldozer and tore up roads causing extensive damage and totally destroyed 125 young trees on a one-half acre site before running out of gas about five hours later and coming to rest about 1 ½ miles down the road. The damaged four year old trees were both Douglas Fir and Incense Cedar trees.

The second incident took place about a week later with no damage being reported.

The BLM estimates cost of the damage is over \$ 3,600 on BLM managed lands in the Glendale Resource Area.

“The person involved in these two incidents had to be familiar with heavy machinery to take an old Euclid cat – equivalent to a D-8 cat and start it up,” said Don Robinson, Assistant District Law Enforcement Ranger, Grants Pass and Glendale Resource Areas, BLM Medford District. “You don’t just turn a key to start it.”

Theft and/or vandalism may not be unusual these days but it is somewhat rare for the BLM to encounter a person taking a bulldozer, riding it through public lands and causing a path of destruction along the way.

“It’s disheartening to put the time and effort into projects such as growing small trees to have a joy rider wipe it out in a matter of minutes,” said Katrina Symons, Glendale Resource Area Manager, BLM Medford District Office. “These type of pranks cost taxpayers money. Your tip could help us apprehend this person and prevent any further damage to the area,” she said.

If you have information on these incidents please call BLM’s Assistant District Law Enforcement Ranger Don Robinson, at 541-471-6655.

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