



NEWS RELEASE

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Public Invited to BLM Open House on June 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Medford, OR, May 9, 2007 – The BLM Grants Pass Resource Area invites the public to attend a project open house on June 5, 2007 to discuss the **Cheney-Slate Landscape Management Plan and the Deer Willy Fuels Hazard Reduction Plan**. The open house will be held from 6-8 pm at the Hidden Valley High School located at 651 Murphy Creek Road.

“We encourage people to join us at the open house event,” said Tony Kerwin, Project Planner at the Grants Pass Resource Area, BLM Medford District. “BLM resource specialists will be on hand to introduce people to the projects and to share information,” Kerwin said. Signs will be posted at the school on June 5 to direct people to the open house location.

Two projects will be featured:

- **The proposed Cheney-Slate Landscape Management Plan (LMP)** area encompasses 26,970 acres of BLM land located near the communities of Murphy, Wonder, and Wilderville. It is also located within the Lower Applegate Watershed, the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA), and the existing Applegate Adaptive Management Reserve Area (AMRA).
- **The proposed Deer Willy Fuels Hazard Reduction Plan** is located within the Williams Creek watershed, along the east boundary of the Deer Creek watershed, and within the Deer Williams Late Successional Reserve (LSR). This project proposes to thin vegetation within 200 feet of roads identified as key strategic routes for fire suppression efforts and escape routes. Fuel hazard reduction treatments may extend further than 200 feet from roads where it is reasonable to extend to the top of strategic ridge systems.

For more information about the open house or projects, please contact Tony Kerwin-Project Planner at 541-471-6564.

BACKGROUND FOR EDITORS:

The proposed Cheney-Slate Landscape Management Plan (LMP):

- **Possible management activities for the proposed Cheney-Slate LMP** may include commercial harvest of timber and firewood, fuel hazard reduction, pre-commercial thinning, tree plantation maintenance, wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement, road and recreation area restoration, maintenance, and improvement, riparian area restoration and enhancement, and development of biomass for local markets.
- **Expected outcomes for the proposed Cheney-Slate LMP** could include commercial timber sales, creation of a network of defensible fuel zones for fire suppression, forest treatments to provide future late-successional habitat, improving stream channel complexity, and projects to increase the supply of small diameter material for biomass utilization. The LMP may also address the spread of noxious weeds, recreation opportunities and off-highway vehicle management, improvement of wildlife habitat, landscape diversity, water quality, reduction of illegal dumping on public lands, and enhancement of the local economy through a variety of management activities.

The proposed Deer Willy Fuels Hazard Reduction Plan:

- **Possible management activities for the proposed Deer Willy Fuels Hazard Reduction Plan** could include fuel hazard reduction, treating noxious weeds, Port-Orford-cedar sanitation treatments, and commercial thinning < 20"DBH. Projects may also include road management including maintenance, restoration, closures, decommissioning, and renovation activities.
- **Expected outcomes and secondary benefits for the proposed Deer Willy Roadside Vegetation Management Plan** may include reducing the potential for Port-Orford-cedar root disease spread, creating a network of fuel breaks for fire suppression activities, enhancing local economies by making small diameter and biomass materials available, reducing the spread of noxious weeds, and the development of a long term roads strategy providing egress and ingress routes.

About BLM

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 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, and cultural resources on the public lands.

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