



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ashland NPLD Coordinator: Dennis Byrd; to sign up: James Langhoff. Phone: (541) 618-2200

### **Volunteers Make a Difference on September 16 & 23 for National Public Lands Day**

**Medford, OR, September 5, 2006** – As a part of this year’s National Public Lands Day celebration, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking volunteers for two separate work days on September 16 and 23, 2006. On September 16, volunteers will improve habitats and resources in and around the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and on September 23, volunteers will restore the Cathedral Hills trail system in Grants Pass.

“National Public Lands Day is a wonderful way for individuals, families and community groups to come together to help improve our public lands,” said Tim Reuwsaat, BLM, Medford District Manager. “We appreciate the community actively participating in these projects and look forward to more volunteers this year,” said Reuwsaat.

**September 16, 2006.** The Ashland Resource Area is focusing this year’s activities in and around the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument area. This year, several projects include: trail maintenance at Buck Prairie Nordic Ski Area and the Table Mt. Winter Trail System, repair of wildlife fence enclosures in riparian areas, brush and tread work on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail; and water tank replacement at Bean Cabin.

As in the past, volunteers are invited to spend Friday and Saturday nights, September 15 & 16, at the Hyatt Lake Campground, free of charge. Registration and a pancake breakfast, served by the Rogue Snowmobile Association, is Saturday morning from 6:45-7:45 a.m. at the Mountain View group shelter. Volunteers will depart to the project sites around 8:00 a.m. Sack lunches will be provided followed by a free dinner at the end of the day. For more information about this event, please contact: Dennis Byrd, Outdoor Recreation Planner; or James Langhoff, Volunteer Coordinator, at (541) 618-2200.

**September 23, 2006.** Cathedral Hills in Grants Pass is a popular Bureau of Land Management day-use area that many local residents visit year-round. New this year is a children's program entitled *Skins, Scats, Skulls, Footprints, and Wildlife Adaptations* presented by a BLM Environmental Education Specialist, Leah Schrod. "Kids will learn about wildlife through fun, hands-on activities, which will also include a wildlife interpretive walk in a forest environment," said Schrod.

This National Public Lands Day celebration is focused on maintaining and rerouting trails system as well as construction of four bridges. The bridges will help prevent erosion, improve drainage, protect riparian/wetland sites and improve visitor safety.

Last year, National Public Lands Day at Cathedral Hills Park drew over 75 volunteers who pitched in to install picnic tables and benches, clear brush, and construct new trails. These individuals contributed through volunteer labor nearly \$8,000 of needed improvements to the area.

This year, volunteers will receive free National Public Lands Day posters, T-shirts, and hats. Tools, sack lunches, and refreshments are provided, as well as the end-of-the-day appreciation dinner at the Reinhart Volunteer Park. Volunteers are asked to bring water, gloves, sunscreen, and tools if you have them (loppers, shovels). Safety is important- please wear long sleeve shirts, pants and boots.

Registration and orientation begins on September 23rd at 8:00 a.m. at the Reinhart Volunteer Park (aka the All Sports Park (B of A Pavilion)). The Reinhart Volunteer Park in Grants Pass is located on Webster Road, off of Lincoln Road on the north side of the Rogue River. Volunteers will caravan from the part to Cathedral Hills. For more information about this event, please contact: Project coordinator: Jeanne Klein, Outdoor Recreation Planner; or to sign up: Barbara Zurhellen, Volunteer Coordinator at (541) 471-6500.