

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-12-04
For release: immediate

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BLM Releases West Eugene Wetlands Draft Resource Management Plan

Eugene, Ore. – Oct. 17, 2012 – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eugene District is releasing for public review and comment a draft Resource Management Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/Draft EIS) for the BLM-administered lands in the West Eugene Wetlands. The planning area comprises approximately 1,340 acres of BLM-administered public lands within the West Eugene Wetlands.

The BLM acquired portions of the West Eugene Wetlands over the past several decades, and these lands do not have an existing RMP. The planning area is home to the endangered Fender's blue butterfly, and three threatened or endangered plants: Bradshaw's lomatium, Willamette daisy, and Kincaid's lupine.

This Draft RMP/Draft EIS is a comprehensive management plan for the long-term protection and management of the BLM-administered lands in the West Eugene Wetlands. The Draft RMP/Draft EIS analyzes in detail the No Action alternative, which would be to continue the current management practice, and six action alternatives. These action alternatives were designed, in part, to explore alternative approaches to contributing to recovery of threatened and endangered species, consistent with the recommendations in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for the Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington.

The comment for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS is scheduled for 90 days beginning October 19, 2012. Comments can be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Email: BLM_OR_EU_Mail@blm.gov
- Fax: (541) 683-6981
- Mail: P.O. Box 10226, Eugene, Oregon 97440-2226

You may also submit comments at a public meeting for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS on November 8, 2012, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Eugene District Office, 3106 Pierce Parkway, Springfield, Oregon, 97477. BLM staff will be on hand to answer questions and listen to your concerns.

Copies of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS are available at the Eugene District Office, 3106 Pierce Parkway, Springfield, Oregon, 97477, or online

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at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/eugene/plans/eugenermp.php>.

For more information, contact Richard Hardt at (541) 683-6600.

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/eugene/index.php>

About the BLM: The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. 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.

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