

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Restoring

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-038-2012-08

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Contact: Mark Wilkening

(541) 473-6218

BLM Prepares Post-Fire Rehabilitation Plans

VALE, OR – In the wake of multiple and extensive wildfires, the Bureau of Land Management Vale District has begun planning for emergency stabilization and rehabilitation.

Ten fires burned more than 797,000 acres across southeast Oregon this season, the majority between Jordan Valley, Oregon, and McDermitt, Nevada. Treatments will provide for rehabilitation of Greater Sage-Grouse and Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat, with a focus on sagebrush restoration and riparian recovery. Treatments will include ground and aerial seed application of grass, forb and shrub species as well as fence repair, erosion control structures, and noxious weed treatments.

Temporary protective fences will be constructed to ensure recovery of native vegetation as well as protect the public land user's investment in seeding treatments. Seeding treatments will use a mix of native and non-native grasses, and shrub species will include sagebrush and bitterbrush. Noxious weeds will be managed by both mechanical and chemical methods.

Seeding will be completed by tractor drill seeding, aerial seed distribution, and seed incorporation with chaining. Seeding and erosion control treatments will begin this fall and continue into winter, weather permitting, while other treatments will take place over the next two to three years.

“Post-fire erosion is a concern” says Jordan-Mallhuer Field Manager Pat Ryan. “We look forward to working with the community and our sister agencies in restoring the landscape.”

The BLM Vale District will work with local landowners and cooperators, in addition to various local, state, and federal agencies, in designing and implementing stabilization and rehabilitation treatments. Monitoring will be conducted to ensure that new noxious weed sites do not become established infestations.

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About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – more than 245 million acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 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, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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