

NEWS RELEASE

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Resource News

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Make a Difference Award

Roseburg, Ore. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has announced the winners of the agency's 2001 "Making a Difference" Volunteer Awards. Joe Ross, the Roseburg District BLM Volunteer Coordinator will receive this national award on May 23, 2001 at a special ceremony at the U.S. Department of Interior's historic South Penthouse and Roof Terrace in Washington D.C.

Joe Ross, Roseburg's Team Leader for National Public Lands Day 2000, developed partnerships with numerous public and private organizations resulting in more than 360 volunteers completing ten projects on public lands worth an estimated \$200,000. Over 360 volunteers (ranging in age from 3 to 85) cleaned, dug, painted, reclaimed and maintained public lands administered by the BLM and the Forest Service in Douglas County, Oregon. In addition, Joe has set up a partnership with the local Girl Scout Council to, "Link Girls to the Land", a special outdoor education program.

The Make a Difference Award was initiated in 1995 to recognize valuable volunteer contributions. In addition to two BLM employees, eight individuals, teams and organizations will receive volunteer awards this year.

"This year's recipients represent outstanding service to America's 164 million acres of public lands and the natural and cultural resources found on them," says Acting BLM Director Nina Hatfield. "The work of our volunteers is as diverse as the work of the BLM itself. And as the populations surrounding our public lands grow, volunteer assistance becomes ever more critical for our agency. We are truly grateful to the more than 17,000 volunteers who serve BLM each year."

For more information you may contact the Roseburg BLM Public Affairs Officer, E.Lynn Burkett, on 541-440-4930.

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