

BLM SEEKS TIMBER AND RECREATION ADVISORS FOR RESOURCE PANEL

PORTLAND, July 15, 2003 -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking applicants for the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (RAC) to fill unexpired terms representing **commercial timber** and **dispersed recreation**. The RAC advises and recommends management strategies for federal lands located in whole or in part within the Vale, Burns and Lakeview Districts of the BLM and the Fremont, Deschutes, Ochoco and Malheur National Forests. The **nomination period ends September 15, 2003**. The remaining term for the timber position is one year; the recreation position will expire in 2005.

Candidates must reside in Oregon. Individuals may nominate themselves or others, and each nomination must have a letter of recommendation from a regional or national environmental organization. For a nomination form or additional information, please contact Pam Robbins, Bureau of Land Management, (pam_robbins@blm.gov), P. O. Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208-2965, (503) 808-6306, or your local BLM District Office. More RAC information is on the internet at <http://www.or.blm.gov/SEOR-RAC>.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires RACs to be balanced and represent the various interests concerned with public land management. Council members are unpaid but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses. The RAC meetings are held at various sites within the RAC boundary on a quarterly basis.

The RACs are an integral part of land management for federal agencies. Local RACs provide critical input on resource issues that include land exchanges or developing management plans for areas such as the Interior Columbia Basin. The first product developed by the RACs was the *Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management*.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land-262 million surface acres-than any other Federal agency. Most of the country's BLM managed public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, which has a budget of \$1.8 billion and a workforce of 10,000 employees, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the Nation. The BLM's "multiple use" mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM accomplishes this by managing for such resources as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, and energy and mineral development that helps meet the nation's energy needs, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on the public lands. Additionally, the BLM is responsible for and manages the survey and title records of the public domain, private land claims, and Indian lands.

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