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Of Attorneys for Defendants

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON

**OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASS'N
and WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

**CAROLYN FREEBORN, Field Manager, Jordan
Resource Area, BLM; DAVE HENDERSON,
Vale District Manager, BLM; BUREAU OF
LAND MANAGEMENT; and UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,**

Defendants.

Civil No. 06-1311-MO

**DEFENDANTS' SECOND
STATUS REPORT**

Pursuant to the Court's order (Dkt. #40) directing Defendants to file another status report by this date, Defendants hereby respectfully submit this report to apprise the Court and parties of the work they have performed since filing their last status report in October 2007 and to provide an estimated schedule for completion of the next steps in the work they have yet to complete.

As reported to the Court previously, the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"), operating

through its Jordan Resource Area on the Vale District in southeastern Oregon, has been updating and maintaining its inventory on wilderness characteristics within the project area for the Louse Canyon Geographic Management Area (“LCGMA”) since January 2007. In the last status report, Defendants informed the Court that BLM planned on completing this work by October 26, 2007. Defendants now report that BLM did complete its wilderness inventory updates by the projected completion date and, further, that this month it provided its completed wilderness evaluation forms to Plaintiff Oregon Natural Desert Association. Through conducting this wilderness inventory update, BLM concluded that there are areas within the LCGMA project area outside of existing Wilderness Study Areas that likely possess one or more wilderness characteristics.

In order to take into account the information it compiled in completing the wilderness evaluation forms, BLM is now in the process of supplementing its National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) analysis for the LCGMA project area. As is its customary practice, BLM will provide an opportunity for public comment on this supplemental NEPA analysis.

In their last status report, Defendants reported that it was BLM’s goal to circulate this supplemental NEPA analysis for public review and comment sometime during February 2008, and BLM still expects to circulate the supplemental analysis around or within this time frame. As they noted earlier, Defendants intend to advise the Court when BLM makes available for public comment the supplemental NEPA analysis it prepares regarding the LCGMA project area.

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DATED this 22nd day of January 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

KARIN J. IMMERGUT
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District of Oregon

/s/ Stephen J. Odell
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