

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **BLM PROPOSES RAISING VEHICLE ENTRANCE FEES AT YAQUINA HEAD OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA**

SALEM--The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area is seeking public comment on their proposal to raise the fee for vehicles entering the park from \$5 (for 3 days) to \$7 (for 3 days) and to raise the annual vehicle pass fee from \$10 to \$15. Three day passes for motorcycles would go up from \$2 to \$3, and the cost of private and commercial large capacity vans (10 to 20 passengers) would go from \$20 to \$25. Commercial tour buses would pay a \$50 one-time entrance fee, (up from \$40). Other than commercial vehicles, the fees allow the passengers of a private vehicle to enter the park and utilize all of the facilities for three consecutive days. This includes the exhibits in the interpretive center, tours of the 134 year-old lighthouse, and access to the tidepools and the hiking trails in the park. One hundred percent of the money collected from fees is used to help operate and maintain the site and to pay for programs that directly benefit Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area visitors.

All non-vehicular access and access for school and education-related groups is free, and will remain so under the BLM's new proposal. The BLM will also continue to offer periodic free days. On February 18, 2008, there will be a free day in honor of the Presidents Day holiday. Yaquina Head hours of operation will remain "dawn to dusk" and the site will continue to be open 365 days per year.

The BLM has managed Yaquina Head since 1980. In 1997, BLM began charging a fee to visit the lighthouse and the newly constructed interpretive center. In 1999, the present per vehicle fee structure was initiated. Since 1999, the fees have raised enough revenue annually to cover approximately 50 percent of Yaquina Head's operating expenses.

"An estimated \$75,000 in additional revenue raised from charging a higher vehicle fee would remain on site if the proposal is enacted," said Yaquina Head Manager Joe Ashor. The revenue would be used to continue the existing level of high quality services and interpretive and educational experiences offered to visitors, help protect the areas sensitive natural resources, and help maintain the lighthouse. None of the fee revenue would be used to pay for administrative overhead costs," said Ashor.

The BLM at Yaquina Head is accepting comments on the new fee proposal between now and March 15. Interested citizens with questions or concerns are encouraged to call the Yaquina Head manager, Mr. Joe Ashor at (541) 574-3142. For more information about Yaquina Head activities, contact the BLM at 574-3100 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily, or visit the Yaquina Head web site at:

[www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/yaquina/index.htm](http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/yaquina/index.htm).

### About the BLM

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 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, and cultural resources on the public lands.

