

Blumenauer to Join Interior Secretary Salazar, Chairman of House Natural Resources Committee, and Members of Congress at Press Conference Hailing Passage of the Omnibus Lands Bill

Washington, DC – Tomorrow, the U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. This bill contains numerous public lands provisions for Oregon, including the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act, which would protect almost 127,000 acres around Mount Hood and add almost 80 miles on nine free-flowing stretches of rivers to the National Wild and Scenic River System.

In 2003, Blumenauer convened the first of a series of Mt. Hood Summits. In 2006, he partnered with the Oregon House delegation members to pass the Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy Act, which was the first new Oregon wilderness expansion to pass either chamber of Congress in 20 years. Other Oregon provisions included in the bill are detailed below:

- The Cascade Siskiyou National Monument Voluntary and Equitable Grazing Conflict Resolution Act, which establishes a 23,000-acre wilderness area, to be known as the Soda Mountain Wilderness, in the Monument's southern backcountry;
- The Oregon Badlands Wilderness Act, which designates almost 30,000 acres of wilderness 15 miles east of Bend. The wilderness designation comes over two decades after the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recommended the area be preserved;
- The Spring Basin Wilderness Act, which designates approximately 8,600 acres of BLM land as the Spring Basin Wilderness, overlooking the John Day Wild and Scenic River. The area is important habitat for populations of Mule Deer, Rocky Mountain Elk and many bird species, and offers recreational opportunities for hikers, horseback riders, hunters, botanists and other outdoor enthusiasts;
- The Copper Salmon Wilderness Act, which designates 9.3 miles of rivers at the headwaters of the North Fork of the Elk River as Wild and Scenic and adds 13,700 acres of new wilderness adjacent to the existing Grassy Knob Wilderness. The Elk River is known as the most productive wild salmon and steelhead river of its size in the lower 48 states.

****TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH REP. BLUMENAUER, PLEASE CONTACT SAHAR WALI AT 202-834-6919 OR VIA E-MAIL AT SAHAR.WALI@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV**

Details on the press conference are below:

Who: House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick J. Rahall (D-WV)

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.)

What: News conference on the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146)

When: Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at approximately 3:00 p.m. EST or immediately following the House Floor vote on the bill

Where: Room H-137 Capitol Building (House Ways and Means Committee room)

For Immediate Release

March 24, 2009

Media Contact: Sahar Wali

202-225-4813 Office/202-834-6919 Cell

Sahar.wali@mail.house.gov