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| **United States Department of Agriculture** | **Forest Service** | **R-6** | **United States Department of the Interior** | **Bureau of Land Management** | **OR/WA** |
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**Reply Refer To**: 2600(FS)/6500(BLM) (OR930) I **Date:** February 21, 2013

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| **FS-Memorandum**  | **EMS TRANSMISSION** **BLM-Information Bulletin No. OR-2013-** |
| **To:** | Forest Supervisors, Westside NF, Region 6District Managers, Westside BLM Districts, Oregon and Washington |
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| **Subject:** | Westside Elk Model |

The U.S. Forest Service’s (FS) Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) recently released two new landscape models that predict elk nutrition and habitat use across western Oregon. These models represent the best available information for evaluating elk habitat on Westside public and forest lands and should be considered in project and land use planning as appropriate.

The elk nutrition and elk habitat use models, reflect key elk research findings from the last twenty years, and will help managers evaluate the nutritional and habitat conditions of Westside landscapes and their likely use by elk. They also can be used to project the effects of land management activities, like road closures and thinning, on this ecologically and economically important ungulate. The models, which are combined in a single downloadable toolbox along with sample datasets, are available online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/research/elk>.

The models were developed and validated in collaboration with a wide range of partners including the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Oregon State University, and over twenty other partners. In addition, the models were beta-tested for more than a year by biologists and technicians from a variety of agencies, including the FS and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The modeling team will continue to offer training sessions and other technology transfer activities to help managers with efficient and timely application of the models. For general questions on the Westside elk models, please contact Todd Thompson (t1thomps@blm.gov) or Robert Alvarado (ralvarado@fs.fed.us). For technical assistance, please contact Barb Wales (bwales@fs.fed.us) or Lisa Renan (lrenan@blm.gov). For assistance with BLM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Land Use Planning, please contact Anne Boeder (aboeder@blm.gov) or, for Forest Plan Amendments, Michael Hampton (mhampton@fs.fed.us).

/s/ *Kent P. Connaughton* /s/ *Jerome E. Perez*

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| KENT P. CONNAUGHTONRegional Forester, Region 6USDA Forest Service | JEROME E. PEREZState Director, Oregon/WashingtonUSDI Bureau of Land Management |

Distribution:

Robert Alvarado, Forest Service

Barb Wales, Forest Service

Michael Hampton, Forest Service

Todd Thompson, Bureau of Land Management

Lisa Rena, Bureau of Land Management

Anne Boeder, Bureau of Land Management

Donald Hamption, OR930, Bureau of Land Management

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