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Of Attorneys for Defendants

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

**DISTRICT OF OREGON**

**PORTLAND DIVISION**

**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.**

**06-CV-1311-MO**

**JOINT STATUS REPORT**

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The parties submit this joint status report to comply with the Court 's order (Dkt. #61)  
directing them to advise the Court by this date of the status of the response of Defendant Bureau

of Land Management (“BLM”) to the three protests that have been filed to challenge its recently issued proposed grazing decisions in the Louse Canyon Geographic Management Area and/or to recommend a revised litigation schedule for the above-captioned action in light of how long BLM reasonably expects it will take to resolve such protests. As BLM informed the Court in the notice it filed on Dec. 15, 2009 (Dkt. #62), the three protests cumulatively raise more than 50 protest points that the agency has begun to review and evaluate. At this point, given the number of protest points raised in the three protests, BLM anticipates that it will likely take it at least another couple of months to complete its work in responding to the protests. If the agency determines that none of the protests raise any issues that will require it to engage in further environmental analysis, BLM would plan to respond to the points they raise and move forward with issuance of final grazing decisions pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 4160.3(b); alternatively, it could decide to augment its environmental analysis and/or revise the proposed grazing decisions.

In light of the foregoing scenario and because it is currently unknown how BLM will resolve the pending administrative protests, the parties further advise that they intend to file another joint status report and/or proposed litigation schedule within two weeks after the protests are resolved or, in any event, no later than April 8, 2010, unless the Court directs otherwise. Furthermore, the parties will discuss a potential stipulation, similar to the prior stipulations (Dkt ## 10, 25, 45, 46, 54, 55, 58), concerning BLM's implementation of new range projects and management of already-constructed projects. Such stipulation would be intended to avoid an ONDA/WWP motion for preliminary injunctive relief while this Court resolves the merits of the plaintiffs' claims. If the parties come to an agreement, they would file a motion with the Court

asking it to adopt the stipulation, as they have done previously.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of January 2010.

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