

# NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>  
Contact: Tara Martinak (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-020-09-28 • June 29, 2009

BLM  
Burns District Office

## **TRAVELERS CAUTIONED AGAINST RAIN DAMAGE ON AREA ROADS**

**HINES, Oregon** – After a week of hot and dry weather conditions, Burns District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials are finally able to examine road conditions on public lands across Harney County. Already, significant damage from heavy late-spring rains has been discovered on a handful of primary and secondary routes. The Arizona Creek Road in the Pueblo Mountains, for example, has a 40-foot washout and will be closed for maintenance until further notice.

Natural Resource Specialist Bill Pieratt said, “Impacts from the 5-6 inches of rainfall we received in less than a month are becoming more and more visible each day.”

Although some problem areas have been identified, the extent of damages in the entire county is unknown and travelers are cautioned against likely unsafe conditions. Many routes remain subject to severe rutting, culvert exposures or complete washouts with any additional moisture and there are no warning signs in place. Drivers should avoid use of most or all secondary routes until they dry out, and use extreme care and pay close attention to conditions when following primary roads.

For more information on conditions, or to report damage on public land access roads, contact the Burns District Office at (541) 573-4400 weekdays between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

### **About the BLM:**

The BLM manages more land – 256 million acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 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, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

