

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Shipwreck Viewing Traffic Re-Routed on North Spit

North Bend, OR – The Bureau of Land Management has re-routed traffic to the shipwreck on the North Spit due to large amounts of vehicle, pedestrian, and equestrian traffic on the sand roads.

The Foredune Road is now one-way traffic starting at the first gate, past the shipwreck, south to the second gate. Once a visitor reaches the second gate, they will turn left and travel the re-route road until they reconnect with the Foredune Road. Travel on the re-route road will remain open to two-way traffic. One-way and detour signs are posted on the roads to help guide traffic. See attached map.

The BLM and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) ask that visitors travel safely through the area as we enter the holiday weekend. Travel slowly on the sand roads, use four wheel drive, and have an appropriate red or orange flag attached to the vehicle. Off highway vehicles (ATV's) and street legal vehicles are allowed on BLM sand roads. Only street legal vehicles are allowed on the beach near the shipwreck.

When looking down at the shipwreck from the foredune, be sure to stay back a safe distance from the seawall; the edge is crumbling. Visitors should pay particular attention to surf conditions and the tides as well. They change quickly this time of year and the shipwreck is partially under water at high tide. Heavy surf and quickly rising tides can trap visitors on the beach or against the seawall.

New signs are posted at the shipwreck that identify it as an archeological site. Visitors are asked to take only pictures when visiting the site, and leave the shipwreck as it is.

“Thousands of people visited the shipwreck over the weekend and the visitors have been great. They are enjoying themselves and doing a good job of respecting the shipwreck,” said Dennis Turowski, BLM Field Manager.

News on the Shipwreck –

- Recently beds, also known as racks, became exposed within the ship's hull. It is likely this portion of the shipwreck contained crew quarters.



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- Hex nuts and evidence of electrical wiring are also exposed. These characteristics will help narrow the timeframe in which the ship may have been built.
- The rubrails on the shipwreck are made of Douglas-fir.
- The BLM, OPRD, and the Coos County Historical and Maritime Museum continue to comb through archival records and interview people who have come forward with information in hopes of identifying the shipwreck.

About 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 BLM, 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 BLM 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.

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