

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3050 NE Third Street - Prineville, Oregon 97754 - www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
For release: April 19, 2013

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Prineville Issues Priest Hole Recreation Site Plan Decision

Mitchell, Ore. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Prineville District Office is issuing a decision to implement a combination of actions in the Priest Hole Recreation Area located 12 miles northwest of Mitchell, Oregon. All of the actions are designed to improve the recreational experience while protecting wildlife habitat and water quality. After careful analysis and considering public input, BLM decided to implement a scaled-down version of the original proposed action.

As a result, the project will not develop any designated campsites, will not close any roads, and will not add a trash dumpster to the area. BLM will install a temporary restroom (port-a-potty) while gaining public input on the best location for a permanent vault toilet. Once a site is identified for the permanent toilet, a gravel parking area will be developed to allow pull-through trailer access. The decision also includes modifications for the food and cover crop plots and irrigation for the fields.

Any person adversely affected by this decision may appeal to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board) in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and Form 1842-1 (form available at Prineville BLM) within 30 days from the decision. Only signed, original hard copies of a notice of appeal will be accepted at the Prineville BLM office. A notice of appeal must include a statement of reasons showing that the decision is in error and must be filed with the Board within thirty (30) days after the notice of appeal was filed.

The Priest Hole Site Plan EA Decision Record is available online under “Documents Currently under Review” at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/index.php> or by requesting a paper copy from the Prineville District Office at (541) 416-6700. More information about the proposed actions can be found at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/priest.php>. Please contact the Prineville BLM if you need more information about the appeal process.

About the BLM: The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion was generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. 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.

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