

# NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3050 NE Third Street • Prineville, Oregon 97754 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville>

For Release: February 1, 2012

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Prineville District Office

BLM

## Seasonal Wildlife Closures in Place on Prineville District BLM

*PRINEVILLE, Ore.* -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Prineville District Office is implementing a series of wildlife closures to protect several species of birds of prey during sensitive nesting periods. Harassment by humans – unintentional or deliberate – is a leading cause of nest failure or abandonment. All public uses will be prohibited in the closure areas including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and OHV riding/driving.

The following areas now have seasonal closures in effect:

- **BLM Beach** on the south side of Lake Billy Chinook will be closed from January 1 – August 31<sup>st</sup> to protect nesting bald eagles. The BLM does not have alternate campsites in the area.
- **Millican Plateau OHV Trail System (Route #95 only)** – This route is closed from January 1 – August 31<sup>st</sup> to protect nesting bald eagles. There are numerous other routes in the area for out-and-back as well as loop rides.
- **Trout Creek Trail (South side of the Trout Creek Trail only)** - Visitors will be required to stay on the Trout Creek Trail or between Trout Creek Trail and the Lower Deschutes River. This area is closed from February 1 – August 31<sup>st</sup> to protect nesting golden eagles. Climbers wanting to access the sites south of the trail can use other climbing locations such as Rattlesnake, Skinners Butte or the Gorge at Smith Rocks.
- **Cline Buttes Recreation Area (portions of the Deep Canyon, Maston, and Southwest Trail Use Areas only)** – are closed from February 1 – August 31<sup>st</sup> to protect nesting golden eagles. Alternative Trail Use Areas in Cline Buttes include Tumalo Canal Historic Area, the Buttes and the open portions of the areas listed above.
- **Horny Hollow Trail** near Crooked River Ranch is closed from February 1 – August 31<sup>st</sup> to protect nesting golden eagles. Alternate trail sites in the area include Otter Bench, Scout Camp, Folley Waters and Steelhead Falls.
- **Dry River Canyon Trail** on the southeast side of the Badlands is closed to protect nesting prairie falcons and golden eagles from February 1 – August 31<sup>st</sup>. Alternate places in the area to recreate include Badlands Rock Trail, Flatiron Trail and the Horse Ridge Trail Complex.

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- **Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area:** In addition to the raptor closures described above, the State and BLM-administered lands in the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area in Grant County will be closed to all public access from Feb. 1-April 14, 2012. The winter closure is a cooperative effort meant to protect wintering mule deer as part of the Mule Deer Initiative, an effort to restore mule deer populations which have declined in Oregon and across the West. The closure is one of a number of steps being taken to increase mule deer populations in the Murderers Creek Unit. Biologists believe habitat is the biggest factor affecting mule deer. For more information on this closure, please contact Michelle Dennehy at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at (503) 947-6022 or [Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us](mailto:Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us).

Bald and golden eagles are protected by three Federal laws: The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Lacey Act. Coverage provided by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act also extends to prairie falcons.

- The **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act** protects bald and golden eagles by prohibiting the take, possession, sale, purchase, barter, offer to sell, transport, export or import, of any bald or golden eagle, alive or dead, including any part, nest, or egg, unless allowed by permit. Under this Act, "take" includes activities such as molesting or disturbing eagles, as well as more severe actions like killing or wounding them.
- **The Lacey Act** also protects bald eagles by making it a Federal offense to take, possess, transport, sell, import, or export their nests, eggs and parts that are taken in violation of any state, tribal or U.S. law.
- **Migratory Bird Treaty Act** is a Federal law that carries out the United States' commitment to four international conventions with Canada, Japan, Mexico and Russia. Those conventions protect birds that migrate across international borders.

Violating the Prineville District closure orders can lead to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both. Convictions under the protection acts listed above can be much more severe.

More information about these closures as well as maps of closure areas can be found on the Prineville BLM website ([www.or.blm.gov/prineville](http://www.or.blm.gov/prineville)), or by calling the Prineville BLM office at (541) 416-6700.

**About the BLM:** The BLM manages 245 million acres of public land known as the National System of Public Lands. The lands are primarily located in 12 Western states, including 75 million acres in Alaska. With a budget of about \$1 billion, the bureau 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.

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