

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

For Immediate Release:

September 14, 2009

Contact:

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541-416-6700

Temporary Closure in West Butte Area

Prineville, OR – Effective immediately, there is a temporary closure of public land in the West Butte Area in Crook County on the Deschutes Resource Area, Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management.

To provide for public safety during prescribed fire activities, the Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is giving notice that entrance onto BLM lands along the east side of George Millican Road and south of Reservoir Road and west of Juniper acres, will be restricted beginning immediately, and will last until all prescribed fire activity has been completed.

The affected area is commonly known as the West Butte area. BLM lands within the following areas will be affected: T17S R15E sec 13, 14, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 34, 26 & 36 continuing east to T17S R16E, sec 18, 19, 20, 29 & 30.

BLM will post closure signs at main entry points to this area. You may obtain maps of the closure area and information from the Prineville District Office. Local landowners and residents will continue to have access to their private lands, however, the general public will be excluded within the closure area. Fire fighters and state, federal or local officers or employees in the scope of their duties are exempt and will be operating in the area.

This closure will be in effect from September 14 until October 31, 2009.

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.

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Prineville District Office

BLM





United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Prineville District Office
3050 NE Third Street
Prineville, Oregon 97754



In Reply Refer to:
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CLOSURE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Bureau of Land Management
Prineville District Office

IMMEDIATE CLOSURE OF PUBLIC LANDS: Crook County, Oregon

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District, Deschutes Resource Area Office, Oregon.

ACTION: Temporary closure of public land in Crook County, Oregon.

SUMMARY: To provide for public safety during prescribed fire activities, the Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is giving notice that entrance onto BLM lands along the east side of George Millican Rd and South of Reservoir Road and west of Juniper acres, will be restricted beginning immediately and will last until all prescribed fire activity has been completed.

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BLM will post closure signs at main entry points to this area. You may obtain maps of the closure area and information from the Prineville District Office.

DATES: This closure will be in effect from September 14 until October 31, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Molly Brown, Field Manager, Deschutes Resource Area, at 3050 N.E. Third St. Prineville, Oregon 97754, telephone (541) 416-6700.

DISCUSSION OF THE RULES: Under the authority of 43 CFR 9268.3(d)(1)(i), BLM will enforce the following rule on public lands within the closed area:

EXEMPTIONS: Persons who are exempt from these rules include:

- Any Federal, State, or local officer or employee in the scope of their duties;
- Members of any organized rescue or fire-fighting force in performance of an official duty; and
- Any person authorized in writing by the Bureau of Land Management.

PENALTIES: The authorities for this closure are section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)) and 43 CFR 8360.0-7. Any person who violates this closure may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

/S/ William Dean

Molly Brown
Field Manager, Deschutes Resource Area

09/14/09

Date