

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Beginner Mountain Bike Trail Opens at Sandy Ridge on July 4.

Sandy, Ore-- Families and entry-level mountain bikers have one more reason to head to the Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory this summer. New and improved beginner-friendly trail opportunities are slated to open for the July 4th weekend at the Sandy Ridge Trail System near Sandy, Oregon.

Popularity of the system – managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Salem District - has exploded since construction began in 2009. The system is expected to host between 100,000 and 120,000 visits in 2014 making it one of the most popular destinations for off-road riding in the Pacific Northwest.

The International Mountain Bicycling Association and BLM were able to upgrade the system's beginner and introductory trails thanks to a development grant from Clackamas County Tourism & Cultural Affairs. Riders can now enjoy a re-built Homestead Loop, complete with rollers, small rock gardens and banked turns that are fun for all ages and ability levels.

A short peddle up Homestead Road brings riders to Laura's Line, an introductory 0.25 mile, downhill "flow" trail. Flow trails offer a rollercoaster-like ride where each turn runs seamlessly into the next. Trails like Laura's Line are designed to be ridden downhill only, maximizing fun and minimizing visitor conflict.

"Our goal with this project was to make Sandy Ridge more fun for adults and kids just getting into the sport," said Adam Milnor, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the BLM's Salem District. "Now, you can head out with your family or a group and everyone can find a trail that works for them."

"We improved the trailhead area for skill building, with features and challenges that hint at the rest of the system without being overwhelming," said Jason Wells, Trail Specialist with IMBA's Trail Solutions team. "Riding the lower part of the hill is a great start for progressing onto more challenging trails."

"The trails at Sandy Ridge have become a great draw for residents and visitors coming to experience the best of Oregon riding," says Jae Heidenreich, Tourism Development Lead with Clackamas County. "We believe that expanding trail facilities to riders of all types will open up that much more opportunity for the City of Sandy and the mountain communities to inspire bikers and their friends and families to stay and play in the area."

Laura's Line is named for former BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner Laura Dowlan, a dedicated employee who was instrumental in the improvement of outdoor recreation along the Sandy River. Laura passed away in 2009. Her contribution to public lands will be appreciated for years to come. For more information on Sandy Ridge including directions and a map, head to the BLM website at http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/site_info.php?siteid=395.

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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. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2012, activities on public lands generated \$4.6 billion in revenue, much of which was shared with the States where the activities occurred. In addition, public lands contributed more than \$112 billion to the U.S. economy and helped support more than 500,000 jobs.

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