

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
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CAVE GULCH AREA RE-OPENED TO PUBLIC ACCESS

HINES, Ore. – The Coal Pit Spring/Cave Gulch area northwest of Burns near Boulder Canyon is re-opened to public access, reports Three Rivers Resource Area Manager Rick Roy.

During the summer of 2009, unauthorized levels of surface disturbance occurred in this area, preventing some access to public lands and creating unsafe travel conditions in specific locations. To reduce the potential for erosion, combat noxious and invasive weeds, and begin rehabilitation of the damaged areas, in fall of 2009 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District packed, water barred, and drill seeded the disturbed areas. In addition, the BLM temporarily closed the area to motorized vehicle use to facilitate rehabilitation.

The BLM monitored the treated areas in 2010 and 2011 using photo points and measuring plant density and composition. The monitoring indicates that rehabilitation has progressed sufficiently to reopen the area to motorized vehicles.

Public access to the Coal Pit Springs/Cave Gulch area will be the road that runs along and on the west side of the property boundary fence that runs north and south through the western ¼ of T21S R30E section 29. This road provides access between the southwest corner of the state land parcel and the Coal Pit Springs Road. These remain primitive roads with uneven surfaces, berms, and ditches. There are unmarked hazards. Vehicle operators must exercise caution. The previous access that crossed private land in section 29 is no longer available to the public. Maps of the area are available at the Burns District BLM office at 28910 Hwy 20 West in Hines.

Reopening the Cave Gulch area to motorized vehicle use complies with BLM's November 4, 2009, decision that covered the rehabilitation and temporary closure actions and was analyzed in NEPA document categorical exclusion DOI-BLM-OR-B050-2010-0004-CX. The temporary closure of the Cave Gulch area to motorized vehicle use that was announced in Federal Register Vol 75, No 77/ Thursday, April 22, 2010 / Notices, 21039 is ended by this notice.

For more information on the re-opening of the Cave Gulch area, please contact the Burns District BLM Office at (541) 573-4400.

The BLM manages more land – 245 million surface 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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