

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
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Chickahominy Recreation Site closed temporarily for noxious weed treatments

Hines, Ore. – The Chickahominy Recreation Site, located 22 miles west of Burns on Highway 20, will be closed temporarily September 24-26 to allow for Medusahead rye management activities. Closure signs will be posted at the site entrance and the area will be reopened 24 hours after the weed treatments are complete.

Medusahead rye is found in virtually every county in the state and demonstrates its negative qualities best on the east side of Oregon. This noxious weed out-competes other grasses by extracting the majority of moisture well before perennial grasses have begun to grow. Once land is invaded by this species, it becomes almost worthless, supporting neither native animals, birds nor livestock. It also changes the temperature and moisture dynamics of the soil, greatly reducing seed germination of other species, and creating fuel for wildfires.

For additional information on the Medusahead treatments in Harney County, please contact the Burns District BLM at (541)573-4400.

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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