

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Lower Table Rock Trail Closed Due to Prescribed Burning

Medford, Ore. -- The Lower Table Rock Trail is likely to be closed Thursday, October 22, due to a prescribed burn on the top section of the Lower Table Rock. The Upper Table Rock Trail will remain open.

Exact scheduling of burning is dependent on wind direction and minimizing smoke impacts to the public. The decision to burn is made on a daily basis, based on the most current and accurate weather forecasts.

The goal of this project is to restore native grass species. Currently, non-native grasses have created a buildup of thatch in a very unique habitat on top of Table Rocks. Twenty acres of vernal pool mounded prairie habitat will be restored with these efforts. Non-native species such as medusahead rye, downy brome and bulbous bluegrass are covering native species on the mounded prairie and are also moved to the edges of the vernal pool areas, where plants such as the dwarf wooly meadowfoam thrive. This plant is endemic to the top of the Table Rocks, growing nowhere else in the world. Burning will remove non-native grass and create the opportunity to seed native grasses in the area.

The BLM plans to burn 23 acres of hand-piled brush around Upper and Lower Table Rocks in late November. These piles result from brushing and thinning on the Table Rocks Oak Climate Adaptation Project -- part of a landscape scale collaborative effort to restore declining oak ecosystems and increase their resiliency to climate change in the Rogue Basin. The Table Rocks trails will remain open during the late November pile burning.

More information about prescribed burning is available at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/fire/prescribedburns/index.php>

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 mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

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