

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-12-01
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Seasonal Wildlife Closures in Place on Prineville District BLM

PRINEVILLE, Ore. -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Prineville District Office is implementing a series of wildlife closures to protect several species of birds of prey during sensitive nesting periods. Harassment by humans – unintentional or deliberate – is a leading cause of nest failure or abandonment. People walking or riding near a nest—or even being within view of an eagle on a nest—can cause an adult bird to abandon the nest. This means eggs can get cold, young don't get fed, and the nest is open to predation. All public uses will be prohibited in the closure areas including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and OHV riding/driving.

The following areas now have seasonal closures in effect:

- Millican Plateau OHV Trail System (Route #95 only) – This route is closed from January 1 – August 31st to protect nesting bald eagles. There are numerous other routes in the area for out-and-back as well as loop rides.
- Trout Creek Trail (South side of the Trout Creek Trail only) - Visitors are required to stay on the Trout Creek Trail or between Trout Creek Trail and the Lower Deschutes River. This area is closed from January 15 – August 31st to protect nesting golden eagles. Climbers can use other climbing locations such as Rattlesnake, Skinners Butte or the Gorge at Smith Rocks.
- Cline Buttes Recreation Area (portions of the Deep Canyon, Fryrear, Maston, and Jaguar Road only) – are closed from February 1 – August 31st to protect nesting golden eagles. Alternative Trail Use Areas in Cline Buttes include Tumalo Canal Historic Area, the Buttes and the open portions of the areas listed above.
- Horny Hollow Trail near Crooked River Ranch is closed from February 1 – August 31st to protect nesting golden eagles. Alternate trail sites in the area include Otter Bench, Scout Camp, Folley Waters and Steelhead Falls.
- Dry River Canyon Trail on the southeast side of the Badlands is closed to protect nesting prairie falcons and golden eagles from February 1 – August 31st. Alternate places in the area to recreate include Badlands Rock Trail, Flatiron Trail and the Horse Ridge Trail Complex.

BLM
Prineville District Office

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Bald and golden eagles are protected by three Federal laws: The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Lacey Act. Coverage provided by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act also extends to prairie falcons.

- The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act protects bald and golden eagles by prohibiting the take, possession, sale, purchase, barter, offer to sell, transport, export or import, of any bald or golden eagle, alive or dead, including any part, nest, or egg, unless allowed by permit. Under this Act, "take" includes activities such as molesting or disturbing eagles, as well as more severe actions like killing or wounding them.
- The Lacey Act also protects bald eagles by making it a Federal offense to take, possess, transport, sell, import, or export their nests, eggs and parts that are taken in violation of any state, tribal or U.S. law.
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act is a Federal law that carries out the United States' commitment to four international conventions with Canada, Japan, Mexico and Russia. Those conventions protect birds that migrate across international borders.

Violating the Prineville District closure orders can lead to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both. Convictions under the protection acts listed above can be much more severe. BLM may lift closures earlier if biologists determine a nest is not occupied or the young have left the nest.

More information about these closures as well as maps of closure areas can be found on the Alerts/Notices section of the Prineville BLM website (www.or.blm.gov/prineville), or by calling the Prineville BLM office at (541) 416-6700.

About the BLM: 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 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

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