

# NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3050 NE Third Street - Prineville, Oregon 97754 - [www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-13-01  
For release: January 31, 2013

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BLM  
Prineville District Office

## 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:

- **BLM Beach** on the south side of Lake Billy Chinook will be closed from Jan. 1 – Aug. 31 to protect nesting bald eagles. The BLM does not have alternate campsites in the area.
- **Millican Plateau OHV Trail System (Route #95 only)** – This route closed Jan. 1 – Aug. 31 to protect nesting bald eagles. There are numerous other routes in the area for out-and-back as well as loop rides.
- **North Millican OHV Trail System (Route #25)** – This route closed from Feb. 1 – Aug. 31 to protect nesting golden eagles. There are numerous other routes in the area.
- **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 Jan. 15 – Aug. 31 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 Feb. 1 – Aug. 31 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 Feb. 1 – Aug. 31 to protect nesting golden eagles. Alternate trail sites in the area include Otter Bench, Scout Camp, Folley Waters and Steelhead Falls.

- more -

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- **Dry River Canyon Trail** on the southeast side of the Badlands is closed to protect nesting prairie falcons and golden eagles from Feb. 1 – Aug. 31. Alternate places in the area to recreate include Badlands Rock Trail, Flatiron Trail and the Horse Ridge Trail Complex.

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 will 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](http://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. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. 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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