

# NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

1103 N. Fancher • Spokane Valley, WA 99212 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane>

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## Yakima River Canyon Rock Slides

*Spokane, Wash.* – State Route 821 through the Yakima River Canyon is closed between mileposts 16 to 25, approximately four miles into the Canyon from the Ellensburg side due to rockslides that occurred on the evening of July 17. The road will remain closed for several days while Washington State Department of Transportation maintenance crews work to clear the debris.

The Washington State Department of Transportation reports that the slides are roughly 200 feet apart. One slide is about 200 feet wide, goes completely across the road and is roughly 15 feet deep on the hill side edge. The second is about 60 feet wide and three feet deep. No motorists were hit or trapped within the hazard area.

The Bureau of Land Management recreation sites in the Canyon (Umtanum, Lmuma Creek, Big Pines, and Roza) are still open, however the only access is from the south entrance of the Canyon near Selah, Washington. Motorists are advised to exercise caution while traveling through the Yakima River Canyon due to the hazards posed by rock debris falling onto the roadway.

Additional information about the BLM's Spokane District is available online at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/recreation/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. 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.

-BLM-

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