

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM
Spokane District Office

Similkameen River Campground Temporary Closure

Spokane, WA – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Similkameen River Campground will be closed from August 6th to the 10th while the BLM removes downed trees and cleans up the site. Visitors will not be allowed to enter the site during this time. This campground is located in Okanogan County, northeast of Oroville, Washington. Strong winds, associated with the large storm complex that hit northeastern Washington last week, blew down about a dozen large Ponderosa Pine trees along the bank of the Similkameen River at the campground.

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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