

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

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Konnowac Pass Target Shooting Temporary Closure

Wenatchee, WA – On August 19, 2013 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a temporary closure order prohibiting recreational target shooting and target practice on approximately 200 acres of public land administered by the BLM near Moxee in Yakima County, Washington. The BLM parcel is located near Konnowac Pass, in the Rattlesnake Hills area within T. 12N, R 20E, Section 30.

The temporary closure is necessary to provide for visitor safety and the safety of the nearby residents, as the BLM parcel is adjacent to a residential area. The level of recreational shooting and target practice has increased significantly in recent years. The BLM has received a signed petition from neighboring landowners describing how ricocheting bullets landing in their yards and loud and constant noise from gunfire has negatively affected their quality of life. There is also a concern that given the topography of the area, visitors may be unknowingly shooting toward other visitors. In addition there is a considerable amount of debris associated with shooting activity that has not been removed.

The use of firearms on BLM-administered land will continue to be allowed for legal hunting activities consistent with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations and seasons.

The closure will remain in effect for at least two years while the BLM considers more long-term solutions. The BLM will post closure signs at the main BLM entry points to the affected area. Information regarding the closure will be available at the BLM Wenatchee Field Office, 915 Walla Walla Avenue, Wenatchee, WA, 99801, (509)665-2100, or online at:

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