

NEWS Release

Bureau of Land Management • Forest Service

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For Immediate Release

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Fees Free During Veterans Day Weekend!

PORTLAND, Ore. - The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are waiving fees at most day-use recreation sites over Veterans Day weekend in honor of U.S. veterans and members of the U.S. armed forces.

People who might not normally visit our beautiful public lands are encouraged to get out and enjoy the wide range of recreational and educational benefits our lands offer. These include improved physical and mental health, emotional well-being, developing a concern for nature, and a conservation ethic.

The fee waiver is a small, but special way to express our gratitude and appreciation for U.S. veterans, members of the U.S. armed forces and their families. It also supports the goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors and First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move Outside" initiatives.

The waiver of entrance and/or standard amenity fees applies to public recreation lands under the management of the BLM and U.S. Forest Service, along with the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Additional information about recreation sites in the region is available online at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/search/>

<http://www.recreation.gov/>

The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

The BLM manages more land – more than 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. 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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