Joint News Release

Forest Service Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Bureau of Land Management, Medford District



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As Winter Weather Approaches, Gate on Bear Camp Road Will Close December 6

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Medford OR – The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Medford District will close the gate on Bear Camp Road, located near Galice, OR, on Monday, December 6. The gate, which is closed annually for public safety ahead of winter weather, will remain closed until spring snow conditions allow for safe passage for public travel. Travelers are advised to use Highway 199 as an alternate route.

Bear Camp Road, which is managed by both the BLM and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF), is a remote, mountainous route that connects the Rogue Valley to coastal areas. It is not plowed during the winter, and weather conditions can often change quickly, making road conditions hazardous.

The BLM and the RRSNF remind the public that it is crucial to Know Before You Go this time of year.

- Carry extra food, water, and warm clothing to provide for longer travel times.
- In addition to paper maps, go digital and download all of your public lands maps on <u>Avenza</u>, and know where you are at all times! Cell service is NOT necessary!
 District Maps and Motor Vehicle Use Maps
- Know Before You Go: Be aware of <u>predicted weather</u> and <u>road conditions of major highways</u> that provide access to your public lands! Be prepared for sudden changes in weather and road conditions. Know the predicted weather for your route and your destination, and how it can possibly affect your travel plans.
- Always let someone know your expected travel route.
- **Be prepared:** Bring additional warm clothing, water, and extra food to account for unexpectedly longer travel times. Carry chains, a flashlight, and proper attire to install the chains, should the need arise.

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The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in the 11 Western states and Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In fiscal year 2018, the diverse activities authorized on BLM-managed lands generated \$105 billion in economic output across the country. This economic activity supported 471,000 jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments, mostly through royalties on minerals.