



## NEWS RELEASE

Feb 9, 2015

Contact: Chris Joyner, BLM Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 210-2126

### **BLM reminds shed-antler hunters to keep vehicles on roads**

CRAIG, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management Little Snake Field Office is reminding people planning to collect shed antlers in northwest Colorado this spring that it is illegal to travel off existing roads in a motor vehicle on lands managed by the BLM.

“Most visitors follow the rules and enjoy public lands responsibly,” said BLM Little Snake Field Manager Wendy Reynolds. “It only takes a minute to drive off designated roads and trails to impact natural resources for a lifetime.”

Vehicles that illegally leave roads on ATVs or other motorized vehicles cause tremendous, often permanent, damage every spring. Off-road driving can cause significant damage anytime, but moist spring soils are especially susceptible. The resulting damage can cause erosion and serious impacts to important wildlife habitat. The animals are also vulnerable to motorized disturbance during early spring because of winter stress.

BLM rangers will be patrolling popular shed hunting areas this spring in the Little Snake Field Office in northwestern Colorado to ensure compliance with existing travel management rules.

Reynolds asks the public to report any and all public land violations to BLM law enforcement. A citation for riding an ATV off existing roads or in a closed area can result in fines of \$250. Harassing wildlife may result in a \$200 fine.

“We don’t want to write tickets” said Reynolds. “We’d much rather the public follow the rules and not damage their resources.”

Northern Colorado is well-known for its quality big game resources. Shed hunters come from throughout the region, including Utah and Wyoming, to look for shed antlers on BLM lands in northwestern Colorado every spring.

###