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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STORMS WASH OUT DESERT ROADS...DRIVERS CAUTIONED

The recent series of heavy thunder storms has caused serious damage to many desert roads throughout Harney County reports U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials.

Among the most severely affected routes are the Warm Springs Reservoir Access Road south of Drewsey and the Moon Hill Road, near Diamond. Cody Hansen, BLM's Burns District Operations Chief says, "Most roads throughout the District have been and/or are likely to be heavily impacted by flash flooding and severe surface damage as this series of storms continues." He also cautions people who wish to travel on any dirt roads on public lands to wait until conditions have allowed them to dry out and then only use high clearance, four-wheel drive vehicles.

The public needs to know that the agency is aware of some of the problem areas but any of these routes are subject to complete washouts and severe rutting and there are no warning signs in place.

Hansen says, "Desert travelers are encouraged to use extreme care, as washouts can occur anywhere on these roads...paying attention and keeping speeds down can reduce potentially serious situations."

Hansen says the BLM appreciates the public's assistance in limiting use of these roads and would like people to give the BLM a call at (541) 573-4400 if they are aware of serious road damage on public land access roads.

For questions on road conditions or any other public land issues or activities, call the BLM Burns district Office at (541) 573-4400 weekdays between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

*******REPORT WILD FIRES AT 573-1000*******