

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management Office of Communications

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News and Information
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Seasonal Wildlife Closure Lifted in the Badlands Wilderness Study Area

BEND-The Prineville Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently lifted a seasonal wildlife closure order in the Badlands Wilderness Study Area (WSA), a 32,221-acre block of public land located just north of Highway 20 approximately 18 miles east of Bend. The closure was comprised of a small but important area for wildlife that extends ¼ mile around the top portion of Badlands Rock. Such closures are legal requirements as directed by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to provide protection for sensitive wildlife habitat.

The closure became effective March 1, 2004. Prineville BLM wildlife biologists monitoring the area have determined a closure is not required at this time. Signs that were posted on site to advise the public of the wildlife closure have been removed.

The Badlands is also a popular area for people seeking solitude and/or recreation opportunities in the high desert.

“We closely monitor wildlife closures in popular recreation areas to provide public access as soon as possible,” said Prineville BLM District Manager Barron Bail.

The nearby Dry River Canyon seasonal wildlife closure remains in effect. This closure includes all public lands located within one quarter mile of the eastern rim of Dry River Canyon situated north of State Highway 20 (approximately 20 miles southeast of Bend.) The closure is adjacent to Horse Ridge viewpoint and includes the entire canyon.

For further information, contact Outdoor Recreation Planner Gavin Hoban at (541) 416-6879 or Wildlife Biologist Bill Dean at (541) 416-6887.

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