

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and
Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications
Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

News and Information
For Immediate Release

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REWARD REMAINS IN PLACE FOR VANDALIZED PICTOGRAPHS

CENTRAL OREGON-Approximately one year ago, vandals damaged and completely destroyed several Native American Indian pictographs (painted images) located within the Badlands Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The Badlands WSA is a 32,221-acre area of public land east of Bend that is highly valued for its natural, cultural, wilderness and recreational values.

Numerous concerned citizens who understand and appreciate the value of prehistoric images were outraged by the offense. Although the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) quickly took steps to rehabilitate the site by hiring a professional conservator, some of the pictographs were destroyed beyond repair.

“Once these images are destroyed, they are gone forever and their destruction affects people in ways we cannot fully appreciate or understand,” said Archaeologist John Zancanella.

Since the vandalism occurred, the pictograph site has been closely monitored by BLM law enforcement officers, wilderness specialists, archaeologists, members of the Archaeological Society of Central Oregon and other concerned citizens. Inappropriate access to and behavior at this site has been curtailed through public education, road closures, signing and through the watchful eyes of dedicated volunteers.

A reward of \$2000.00 remains in place for information leading to the successful prosecution of the individual(s) responsible for this senseless act of destruction. Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact BLM law enforcement by calling “Report Crime: 1-800-333-7283”.

“The vandalism that occurred essentially robs all of us of an important piece of Central Oregon’s rich cultural heritage,” said Deschutes Resource Area Manager Robert Towne.