

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

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News and Information  
For Immediate Release

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## Seasonal Wildlife Closures In Effect in the Badlands and Dry Canyon

CENTRAL OREGON-The Prineville Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently issued two temporary closures; one in the Badlands Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and one in Dry River Canyon. The Badlands WSA is a 32,221-acre block of public land located just north of Highway 20 approximately 18 miles east of Bend. The two closures include portions of Dry River Canyon and Badlands Rock, which are popular spots for recreationists and those seeking solitude and/or sport in the high desert.

Closures are in place due to sensitive wildlife habitat restrictions. These closures are legal requirements as directed by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to provide protection for sensitive wildlife.

Closures became effective March 1 and expire on August 31, 2004. Wildlife biologists will periodically monitor sensitive wildlife habitat and determine whether the areas may be opened for public use at an earlier date. Posted signs located adjacent to the closures will help recreationists identify and avoid the closed areas. If the areas are reopened prior to August 31, the closure signs will be removed.

"We recognize the Badlands as a highly valued place that people enjoy for a variety of recreation activities. Our intent is to re-open the closure areas as soon as possible. In the meantime, we ask for the public's cooperation in minimizing disturbance to sensitive wildlife," said Acting Prineville BLM District Manager Don Hicks.

The Dry River Canyon 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. The Badlands Rock closure is comprised of the area that extends ¼ mile around the summit of the rock.

Under the authority of federal regulations, violators are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months. For more information, contact Wildlife Biologist Bill Dean at (541) 416-6887.

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