

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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BLM Reminds Hunters of Motorized Use Limitations in Wilderness Study Areas

PRINEVILLE – With hunters preparing to scout for that elusive antelope, deer, or elk, the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management reminds Public Lands visitors that off-highway vehicle (OHV) restrictions in Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) are in place year-round. In these special management areas, all motorized vehicles including four-wheelers and motorcycles are limited to designated and signed routes.

“Wilderness Study Areas are remote, primitive places where hunters’ skills are really challenged,” noted Robert Towne, Field Manager of the Deschutes Resource Area. “Hunting season has historically brought many folks to Central Oregon and in recent years, we’ve seen much more OHV use for pre-season scouting and game retrieval,” Towne added.

Since the mid-1990s, Badlands, Sutton Mountain, and Pat’s Cabin WSAs have received a marked increase in ATV use, some of it in prohibited areas. Contrary to what some may believe, cross-country riding or driving of motorized vehicles of any sort is illegal within a Wilderness Study Area. Hunters should plan ahead if they plan to hunt in a WSA by being prepared to pack out their quarry by personal means or by using pack animals. Maps for most Prineville District WSAs are available at the Prineville District office at 3050 NE 3rd Street in Prineville.

For more information, contact Gavin Hoban, Wilderness Specialist, at 416-6879.

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