## 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 March 9, 2007 Contacts: Christina Welch (541) 416-6731

## Temporary Public Closure on BLM Lands in Dixie Creek Lifted

JOHN DAY-A temporary closure that prohibited overnight camping on BLM lands in the Dixie Creek area has been officially lifted. The temporary closure order was signed in July of 2005 after illegal occupants were camping on public lands beyond the stay limit. After the occupants vacated the area, a significant clean-up effort was required to ensure public health and safety.

Campers in Dixie Creek and elsewhere on public lands are strongly encouraged to abide by the stay limit and keep their campsites clean. As a reminder, camping limits on BLM public lands are 14 days in a 28-day period at any one site. After 14 days have been reached, campers must move at least 25 miles from the previously occupied site. Please respect private property boundaries when camping in the Dixie Creek area.

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The Bureau of Land Management manages more land -258 million surface acres - than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The Bureau of Land Management's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.