

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

Office of Communications

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Limited Motorized Use on Little Canyon Mountain

CANYON CITY— Limited motorized use on public lands in the Little Canyon Mountain area goes into effect at midnight on February 28, 2007. This motorized use restriction will remain in effect until a long-term management decision regarding motorized access and off-highway vehicle use is determined.

“We recognize the need for an immediate action to the current conflicts and safety issues that are occurring on Little Canyon Mountain,” said Field Manager Christina Welch.

After receiving advice and consultation from the Grant County Court and the Town of Canyon City, and listening to input from the residents of Canyon City and John Day, the BLM has determined that the limited use approach is the best interim option for managing motorized use on Little Canyon Mountain at this time. An official restriction order for limited motorized use has been signed by the Designated Federal Official, Christina Welch.

Limited use allows motorized equipment on Little Canyon Mountain, however:

- **In the limited use areas, motorized travel is allowed only on designated routes or when authorized in writing**
- **The staging area is now closed to parking; one designated route does pass through the staging area but otherwise, the area is closed.**
- **The pit area is now closed to Class II vehicles (greater than 50” width)**

Maps of the limited use area are posted:

- **At various points along the perimeter of the limited use area**
- **At main entry points where designated routes enter the limited use area**
- **In John Day at the Post Office, the Federal Building and the Polaris Dealership**
- **On the Prineville BLM District website at**
<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/index.php>

For the past five years, the BLM has worked closely with the communities of Canyon City and John Day to address various land management issues on Little Canyon Mountain, including hazardous fuels reduction, trash clean-up and more recently, motorized use. The John Day Basin

Resource Management Plan (RMP), now being revised, will designate long-term motorized use on BLM public lands for the next 10-15 years. A public meeting for the John Day RMP is scheduled for March 6, 2007 from 6-8 pm at the Outpost Restaurant, 201 W Main St. in John Day. Public comments regarding the long-term use of public lands on John Day Basin are welcome.

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.

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