

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC LANDS: Jackson County, Oregon

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Medford District Office, Oregon

ACTION: Temporary closure of public land in Jackson County, Oregon.

SUMMARY: The Medford District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is giving notice that we are temporarily closing certain areas to camping and off-road vehicle (OHV) use beginning May 18, 2007. These restrictions are to protect soils, water, and fisheries resources that are being adversely impacted by OHV use and to protect public health and safety.

The closed/restricted areas are:

- 1) Bunny Meadows, a gravel stockpile area off of Forest Creek County Road and surrounding BLM-administered land (T. 38 S., R 3 W. in the west half of section 14 and the east half of the NE ¼ of Section 15). This area is closed to camping and off-highway vehicle use outside of the designated off-loading area. OHV off-loading in a designated area and OHV use on BLM road 38-3W-14.0 will continue to be allowed to facilitate OHV access to trails and roads located to the west of Bunny Meadows on BLM-administered lands.
- 2) BLM-administered land in the northeast corner of the Timber Mountain OHV area (T. 37 S. R. 3 W in portions of Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, and 13; T. 37 S., R. 2 W. in portions of Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, and 17 of the Willamette Meridian. All off-road vehicle entry will be restricted during this temporary closure.

BLM will post closure signs at main entry points to this area. You may obtain maps of the closure area and information from the Medford District Office.

DATES: This closure will be in effect from the date of signature until considerable adverse effects giving rise to the closures are eliminated, and measures are implemented to prevent recurrence of these adverse effects.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Gerritsma, Ashland Resource Area Field Manager, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504, telephone (541) 618-2438.

DISCUSSION OF THE RULES: Under the authority of 43 CFR 9268.3(d)(1)(i), BLM will enforce the following rule on public lands within the closed area:


You must not camp in the Bunny Meadows restricted use area.

You must not enter the closed areas with any motorized vehicle.

EXEMPTIONS: Persons who are exempt from these rules include:

- o Anyone who is off-loading OHVs in the designated parking area at Bunny Meadows gravel stockpile area or traveling on a motorized vehicle along BLM road 38-3W-14.0 to trails and roads located to the west of Bunny Meadows on BLM-administered lands;
- o Any person who is off-loading OHVs or traveling in a motorized vehicle along BLM road 37-3-11 to trails and roads located on BLM-administered lands southwest of the closure area;
- o Any Federal, State, or local officer or employee in the scope of their duties;
- o Members of any organized rescue or fire-fighting force in performance of an official duty;
- o Any person authorized in writing by the Bureau of Land Management; and
- o Any person traveling along Forest Creek County road in accord with State and County rules (non-street legal motorized vehicles are not allowed on any county roadway).

PENALTIES: The authorities for this closure are section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)) and 43 CFR 8360.0-7. Any person who violates this closure may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

For 
Tim Reuwsaat Christopher J. McAleer
District Manager, Medford BLM

5/18/2007
Date