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NEWS RELEASE

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BLM Issues Temporary Off-Highway Vehicle Closure

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Medford District Office is temporarily closing several areas within the Timbered Mountain off-highway vehicle (OHV) area – also commonly referred to as the John’s Peak area. The Timber Mountain OHV Area is located just west of the City of Jacksonville. The purpose of the emergency closure is to protect soils, water, and fisheries resources that are being adversely impacted by OHV use. The closure is also needed to protect public safety on Forest Creek County road. Regulations (43 CFR 8364.1) authorize the BLM to close or restrict use of public lands in order to protect public safety and resources on public lands.

The Bunny Meadows site and the 200 acres of public lands in the immediate area are being closed to OHV riding and camping.

“At this time, off-highway vehicle loading and off-loading will still be allowed in a designated area at the Bunny Meadows site,” said John Gerritsma, BLM Field Manager for the Ashland Resource Area, “and OHV’s may use BLM road 38-3W-14.0 to access trails and roads located to the west of Bunny Meadows on BLM-administered lands.”

Bunny Meadows is located on Forest Creek Road approximately 6 miles southwest of the city of Jacksonville.

The BLM will also be closing approximately 1,524 acres of the northeastern portion of the Timbered Mountain OHV area because of excessive erosion.

The BLM 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 BLM'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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