

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

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

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**Ochoco National Forest Hazardous Road Conditions/McKay Creek Closure
Remains in Effect Through May 31**

Prineville—Forest Service officials have confirmed that many of the roads on the Ochoco National Forest are impassable at this time due to substantial winter snow accumulation. Some of the roads remain gated while other roads are open, but remain snowpacked, soft or muddy.

Forest visitors should be aware some of the roads that are frozen in the morning hours will soften in the afternoon, increasing the chances of getting stuck and/or creating road and natural resource damage. Driving on soft roads not only damages the road, it can also cause erosion of soils, creating water quality issues for nearby streams and aquatic habitat.

Personal use firewood cutting season, which starts May 1st, will remain on schedule for the Ochoco National Forest this year. Permits and firewood synopses will be available at the Ochoco National Forest Headquarters, 3160 NE Third Street in Prineville, at that time. Permits cost \$10 cord with a 2-cord minimum.

Forest Service law enforcement officials are also advising the McKay Creek area closure remains in effect through May 31, 2008. The area is under an emergency closure order due to increasing off-highway vehicle use that has destroyed native vegetation, increased noxious weed spread, disturbed critical big game habitat and impacted culturally sensitive areas.

Travel restriction maps of the 45,700-acre McKay closure area are available at the Ochoco National Forest headquarters. Maps are also available at signboards posted in the McKay area. Routes that remain open for motorized use in the McKay area include Road 27, Road 2705, Road 2710, the spur road 350 off of Road 27, Green Mountain Trail, Road 33, Road 3320 and spur road 325. Forest visitors utilizing motor vehicles are responsible for knowing which roads are legal to travel on during the closure period. Any one caught traveling on non-legal roads/trails will be cited.

For more information, contact the Ochoco National Forest at (541) 416-6500.

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