

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

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**For immediate release: May 30, 2008**  
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**McKay Creek Area Closure Extended Through June 30**

*PRINEVILLE*—Motorized vehicle use will be prohibited in parts of the McKay Creek watershed on the Lookout Mountain Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest through June 30, 2008. The existing emergency closure order was effective on December 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008. The new closure order extends the closure by a month due to unusually wet conditions.

“If motorized vehicles were allowed in the area at this time, we’d see additional natural resource damage, which is what we are trying to minimize by having a closure in place,” said District Ranger Bill Queen.

The original emergency closure order was signed by Forest Supervisor Jeff Walter in December of 2007 due to increasing off-highway vehicle use that was destroying local native vegetation, increasing noxious weed spread, disturbing critical big game habitat and impacting culturally-sensitive areas. Sediment was also being carried into creeks and stream beds were being compacted at vehicle crossings.

The McKay area has benefited from numerous restoration projects, completed with the help of numerous local and national conservation partnerships, including the Crooked River Watershed Council, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the National Forest Foundation, Pelton Funds from Portland General Electric, Title II funds and the Youth Conservation Corps.

Maps of the 45,700-acre closure area are available at the Ochoco National Forest headquarters at 3160 NE Third St. in Prineville. All roads within the emergency closure area continue to be closed, unless marked with a marker and decal stating “Road Open.” Cross-country off-road use is also prohibited.

Travel restriction maps and information is displayed on signs along roads leading into the forest in the McKay area. Firewood cutters also need to follow the closure order, which is included in the firewood synopsis available at the Ochoco National Forest Supervisor’s Office Headquarters.

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McKay Creek flows from the western edge of the national forest toward Prineville, along Forest Road 27.

- Main routes that will remain open to street legal cars, trucks, motorcycles and ATVs within the closure area, include:
- Forest Roads 27, 2705, 2710, 33, 325, 350 and 3320.
- Non-motorized and dispersed camping (up to 300 feet from open roads) is allowed during the closure.

Violation of the order is punishable by up to a \$5,000 fine or imprisonment for up to six months, or both. To see the closure area map, closure order and areas that remain open to the public within the closure area, visit our website at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon) or contact Virginia Gibbons at (541) 416-6647.

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