

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

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For immediate release: June 24, 2008

Contact: Steve Bigby (541) 383-4005

Elk Lake Loop Road Temporarily Closed

BEND – The Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest will temporarily close the back side of the Elk Lake Loop Road and Sunset View Day Use Area on Wednesday, June 25th due to the exceptional number of roadside danger trees in the area. The road will be closed by barricade just north of the Little Fawn Campground junction north to the junction with the 4625-200 road (Elk Lake summer home access road) until further notice.

This closure will not allow for loop access around Elk Lake and will close the Sunset View Day Use Area. Access to Little Fawn Campground and all of the summer homes at Elk Lake will remain open.

Lodgepole pines along the Cascade Lakes Scenic Byway have been affected by the current mountain pine beetle epidemic. Many of the lodgepole pines of diameters nine inches or larger have been infested and killed. It is expected that this outbreak will continue to have considerable affect on lodgepole pine in this area for years to come.

The Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District is currently working on the Sparky Project to address danger trees from Hosmer Lake to Meissner Sno-Park. The project takes in all of the recreation sites (trailheads, campgrounds, day use areas) and the roads that access them. For further information on this project, contact Les Moscoso, Project Team Leader, at 383-4712.