

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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BLM
Medford District Office






Wildfire in Rogue River Canyon forces closure of portion of Rogue River Trail

Three miles of the Rogue River Trail, from Grave Creek to Whisky Creek, have been temporarily closed due to a wildfire burning on BLM-administered lands in the Rogue River canyon. Personnel will be providing information at the Grave Creek boat ramp today (Monday) and signs are being posted at Grave Creek, Whisky Creek, the Rogue River Ranch (22 miles downriver from Grave Creek) and Galice. The Rogue River, the Rainie Falls Trail and the roads in the area west of Merlin, Oregon are still open at this time. The fire started on Sunday evening and is approximately 10-15 acres. Three crews, 2 helicopters and several engines are fighting the fire. The public is advised to use caution in the area, as helicopters are dipping water buckets into the river. A spotter is on scene and temporary delays on the river may occur while helicopters dip. Cause of the fire is under investigation.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. 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, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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