



News Release

Vale BLM District Office

For Immediate Release

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Media contact: Larisa Bogardus

541-219-6863

BLM Vale District temporarily closing campgrounds and recreation sites

VALE, Ore. – The health and safety of visitors and staff remains the number one priority of the Bureau of Land Management. In accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state of Oregon public health officials, the BLM Vale District has temporarily closed many of its developed recreation facilities to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

These closures include:

- The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Baker City;
- All developed Vale BLM campgrounds in Malheur County and on the Baker Resource Area;
- All boat access sites on Vale BLM-managed lands campgrounds in Malheur County and on the Baker Resource Area; and
- All hot springs sites in Malheur County.

The BLM road east of Harris Park and all South Fork Walla Walla Trailhead facilities remain closed due to flooding earlier in the year.

BLM employees are in the process of posting these sites and advising users of these closures. Trash pickup and sanitation services are also suspended at most facilities. Visitors should be prepared to “pack it in and pack it out.”

Many other Vale BLM-managed trails and open space areas, including dispersed camping, remain open to the public. Visitors are encouraged to follow the CDC’s recommendations of practicing social distancing; washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing; avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth; and – most importantly -- staying at home if you feel sick.

For more information about the status of sites and facilities on the Vale BLM district please contact the district office at 541-473-3144 or BLM_OR_VL_Mail@blm.gov; or the Baker Field Office at 541-523-1256 or BLM_OR_BK_Mail@blm.gov.

These closures are pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): 43 CFR § 8364.1, 43 CFR § 9268.3(d)(1), and 43 CFR § 8365.1-4.

– BLM–

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In fiscal year 2018, the diverse activities authorized on BLM-managed lands generated \$105 billion in economic output

across the country. This economic activity supported 471,000 jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments, mostly through royalties on minerals.