

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

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For immediate release: January 5, 2010

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**Back Country Avalanche Conditions Increase
in Warming Weather**

Deschutes National Forest—With current warming weather conditions, avalanche danger increases in the back country. “The snowpack is now being loaded with wet snow and rain,” says Deschutes National Forest Trail Coordinator Chris Sabo. “There is a layer of instability below the surface of the snowpack, and with more wet snow and rain loading on top, avalanche danger is increased.”

Avalanche potential increases with rapid snowfall, rain and changing temperatures, and the avalanche hazard can escalate in a short time. Back country recreationists venturing into avalanche terrain should be knowledgeable in recognizing potential avalanche conditions and act accordingly. Back country travelers are strongly urged to perform snow pack assessment and stability tests and to make safe route selections.

For more information on avalanche ecology and safety practices, visit the Forest Service National Avalanche Center Avalanche Awareness website at <http://www.fsavalanche.org/>.