



Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest
541-575-3000
www.fs.usda.gov/malheur

News Release

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Spring is in the air on the Malheur

JOHN DAY, PRAIRIE CITY, and HINES, ORE. – Spring has sprung and it's time to get back into the woods! Find your favorite place, hike your favorite trail and visit your favorite lake. The roads are thawing out and the mud and erratic weather changes can cause safety concerns if visitors are unprepared.

"It's always a good idea to prepare for a variety of weather conditions this time of year," says Safety Manager Lisa Rynearson. "One minute the sun will be shining brightly and the next minute the clouds will roll in and drench you with a cold rain or snow shower, so please be prepared with dry clothes and jackets. Being prepared is key to a safe and fun adventure into the woods this spring," continued Rynearson.

The roads can also be a little tricky to navigate in the spring. Getting out and seeing the spring wildflowers and the snow melt off into rushing creeks and rivers is a ritual for many of us in here eastern Oregon, so we want to share a few tips for planning your spring time adventures.

General tips for spring time driving and for more information check out www.treadlightly.org:

- Tread lightly with your motor vehicle and be cautious if conditions are muddy.
- Stay on designated trails and roads.
- Honor road and trail closures.
- Please don't build your own trails, they cause damage and are illegal.
- Where open riding is allowed, learn to read the terrain. Avoid low spots and watercourses that could lead to wetlands and meadows.
- Avoid sensitive areas like wetlands altogether.
- Be part of the solution. Please report resource damage to the Forest Service office nearest you.

We would like to remind forest visitors to take extra precautions around streams and rivers this spring.

"Rain falling on heavy snow pack can cause rapid snowmelt; flooding small streams and larger rivers," says Deputy Forest Supervisor Ryan Nehl. "We want to ensure our visitors have the knowledge to act safely in these upcoming spring months when the risks of floods increase," continued Nehl.

Before visitors head out to the forest it is beneficial to be weather wise. "Keep an eye on current and predicted weather conditions as weather can change very



for the greatest good

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quickly,” said Nehl. Know the signs for approaching storms or changing weather conditions. Stay away from fast rushing waters and don’t try to drive through washed out roads.

For the most recent forest information or to purchase a map please call or visit one of our Forest Service offices:

- **Supervisor's Office/Blue Mountain Ranger District:** 431 Patterson Bridge Rd, John Day, OR 97845 (541) 575-3000
- **Emigrant Creek Ranger District:** 265 Highway 20 South, Hines, OR 97738 (541) 573-4300
- **Prairie City Ranger District:** 327 SW Front Street, Prairie City, OR 97869 (541) 820-3800

We would be happy to chat with you, offer recreation suggestions and answer any questions you may have. Information is also available on our website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/>.

We hope that you enjoy spring on the Malheur National Forest!

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