

May 28, 2025

Bureau of Land Management
Prineville District Office
C/O Amanda Roberts
3050 N.E. 3rd St.
Prineville, OR 97754

Re: Request for temporary closure

Dear Ms. Roberts:


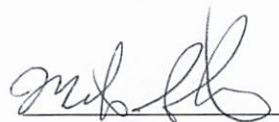


We, the undersigned members of the La Pine City Council, are writing to address the ongoing needs of public safety as they relate to the City of La Pine. As you know, over the last four summers, 2021-2024, there have been three major wildfire incidents on BLM lands directly adjacent to La Pine, Darlene 1, Darlene 2, and Darlene 3, that have threatened the sanctity and safety of our community. There was an additional incident in the summer of 2024 directly south of our area, also on BLM land, labeled the Jackpine fire, that posed a further threat to the city.

As a response to these ongoing events that have all been deduced to be human caused, we are requesting that you impose temporary closure or other restrictive access measures on all BLM lands surrounding La Pine proper of up to a mile in depth. Given recent decisions to close 40 acres of land between Bend and Redmond that is to commence June 1st, 2025, we ask that you extend the same consideration to the La Pine area.

We understand that the geographical intricacies regarding this 40-acre parcel in Central Deschutes County are not specifically commensurate with our circumstances, but we are asking for equal consideration given the repeated declarations of emergency in La Pine. Additionally, as La Pine is a community with some of the highest inventory of buildable shovel ready lands, both residential and economic development, in Deschutes County, and as it has recently suffered repeated conflagrations at a higher rate than any other incorporated community in the region, we believe this request for federal response is appropriate.

It is notable that our community has provided your agency with resources and support over the last year through the issuance of fire suppression implements to your patrons, in addition to several major cleanups on your lands with minimal expense and burden to your agency. We have also supplied considerable emergency response efforts through unlimited access to our aquifer and water systems to the USFS in fighting wildfire on BLM lands, and the ongoing unfunded contributions of local emergency services responding to events occurring on your property. As we have extended efforts to partner with your organization and support your mission, we ask that you in turn advocate for our community to supply these desperately needed restrictions.

We understand you have competing priorities but now ask that you apply your regulatory authority to the urgent and ongoing human caused wildfire threats to the City of La Pine as shown possible in other parts of Deschutes County. Your time and consideration in the matter are most appreciated.


Jeannine Earls, Mayor
Courtney Ignazzitto, Council President
Mike Shields, Councilmember
Karen Morse, Councilmember
Janis Curtis, Councilmember

Cc: Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Representative Cliff Bentz
Secretary Doug Burgum
Secretary Brooke Rollins
Governor Tina Kotek
Senator Diane Linthicum
Representative E. Werner Reschke
Deschutes Board of County Commissioners
Deschutes County Sheriff's Office
La Pine Rural Fire Protection District
Midstate Electric Cooperative Inc.