

For immediate release: September 23, 2009 Contact: Virginia Gibbons 541/416-6647

WALTON LAKE CAMPGROUND CLOSED THROUGH 2010 SEASON ACCESS TO WALTON LAKE AVAILABLE VIA THE ROUND MOUNTAIN TRAIL #805 (NON-MOTORIZED ACCESS)

PRINEVILLE— Walton Lake is a popular recreation site on the Ochoco National Forest located amidst old growth ponderosa pine. The area offers a variety of recreational opportunities including fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking and hiking on the nearby Round Mountain National Scenic Trail.

Walton Lake Campground was recently closed for scheduled improvements that include fewer but larger and more accessible campsites that will accommodate larger recreational vehicles, new picnic tables and handicapped-accessible facilities. The campground will be closed through the 2009 fall season and will remain closed in 2010 from the time it normally opens in spring (mid-May) through the summer until it normally closes in the fall (mid-September).

"We apologize for the extended closure of Walton Lake Campground and the limited access to Walton Lake, and yet, we are also excited to have received the extra funding that allows us to make some needed improvements," said Acting District Ranger Cathy Lund.

The campground gate is currently locked; vehicles cannot drive into the campground area to access Walton Lake. A sign is posted at the locked gate directing visitors to an alternate parking area .5 miles to the east off Forest Road 22 where the Round Mountain Trail (#805) crosses the road. The parking area accommodates six to eight vehicles, however, no boats are allowed. From the parking area, visitors can walk the Round Mountain Trail #805 for an easy .5 mile downhill to the lake shore. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trail.

To get to Walton Lake, drive 25 miles east of Prineville to Ochoco Ranger Station (look for turnoff to Ochoco RS from Highway 26 approximately 13 miles east of Prineville), then drive seven miles northeast of the ranger station on Forest Road #22. For additional recreation information, contact the Ochoco National Forest at (541) 416-6500 or visit our website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon