

Badlands Trails

The Badlands Wilderness Study Area is topographically flat with juniper trees and modest rock outcrops providing vegetative screening and plenty of solitude. You will find no trail signs or markers but may see a number of user-created trails which do not appear on this map. Getting around can be challenging in the Badlands Wilderness Study Area and visitors should be competent in land navigation skills.



Badlands Rock Trail

- In-and-out hike or horse ride
- 6.0 miles, round trip
- No water or services
- Elevation gain/loss: 75 feet

The Badlands Rock Trail is a seasonally open two-track trail that traverses the Badlands Wilderness Study Area to a large rock outcrop with 360-degree views of Central Oregon. To protect wildlife during the breeding season, Badlands Rock is closed to all uses annually from March 1 until as late as August 31.



Trailhead access is located at the Badlands Rock Trailhead, approximately 18 miles southeast of Bend, Oregon. From Bend,

drive 17.9 miles east on State Highway 20. Turn left at the large gravel piles, cross a cattle guard, and proceed one mile northeast along a paved road. Park at the Bureau of Land Management kiosk and proceed 3 miles north along the Badlands Rock Trail to Badlands Rock. A map is available at the trailhead, but no trail signs are present.

Flatiron Trail

- In-and-out hike or horse ride with shorter looping options
- 5.0-6.0 miles, round trip, depending on route taken
- No water or services
- Elevation gain/loss: 60 feet

The Flatiron Trail is a two-track trail that skirts the flank of the relatively nondescript Badlands shield volcano and gently descends to an unusual rock outcrop known as the Flatiron. Here, one can walk in an oblong-shaped moat, or crack for a lunar-like hiking experience. The trail continues to the north boundary of Badlands Wilderness Study Area.

Trailhead access is located at the Flatiron Trailhead, 16 miles east of Bend, Oregon. Trailhead coordinates are in Zone 10 of the UTM coordinate system based on the North American Datum of 1927 (656399E 4868801N).

Other Activities

Rockhounding, vending, and the use of paint ball guns are prohibited within the Badlands Wilderness Study Area as is the cutting of trees or vegetation. Geocaching is allowed within the Badlands Wilderness Study Area. However, there is a limit of 17 geocaches at a time.

Special Recreation Permits

Some activities, particularly special events, organized group outings, and those that are commercial in nature, require a Special Recreation Permit. For more information, contact the Prineville Bureau of Land Management District Office.

Natural History

The Badlands Wilderness Study Area holds a number of remarkable and exciting landforms and geologic features. Most of the study area includes the rugged Badlands volcano, which has features of inflated lava. Windblown volcanic ash and eroded lava make up the sandy, light-colored soil that covers the low and flat places in these fields of lava. Dry River, active during each of several ice ages, marks the southeast boundary between two volcanic areas – Badlands volcano and the Horse Ridge volcanoes. Earth movements along the Brothers Fault Zone have faulted and sliced up the old



Horse Ridge volcanoes, but not Badlands volcano.

The Badlands formed in an unusual way. The flow that supplied lava to the Badlands apparently developed a hole in the roof of its main lava tube. This hole became the source of lava that built a shield volcano that we call the Badlands (technically, a rootless shield volcano). An

irregularly-shaped pit crater at the top of the shield marks the site where lava flowed in all directions to create the Badlands. It is located about 1500 feet northeast of milepost 15 on Highway 20. Highway 20 traverses the shield along a straight, five-mile stretch between the intersections with an old section of Highway 20 (between mileposts 12.6 and 17.5). Soils in the Badlands were largely formed from ash associated with Mt. Mazama, now known as Crater Lake.

A variety of wildlife species inhabit the area including yellow-bellied marmots, bobcat, mule deer, elk, and antelope. The southern portion of the Badlands Wilderness Study Area includes crucial winter range for mule deer. Avian species include prairie falcons and golden eagles.

Directions to the Site

The Badlands Wilderness Study Area is located approximately 12 mile east of Bend, Oregon, along State Highway 20.

District Contact Information

Prineville District Office

Bureau of Land Management
3050 NE Third Street
Prineville, OR 97754

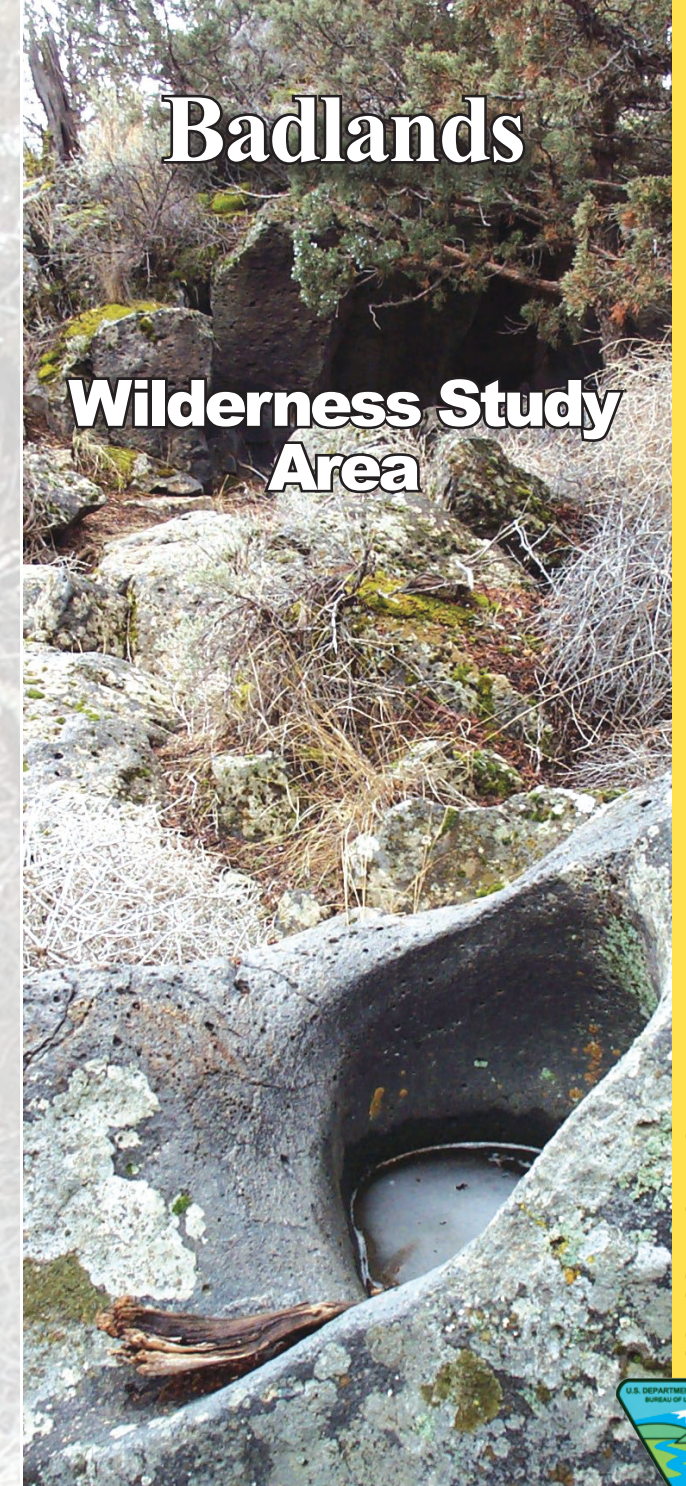
(541) 416-6700

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Badlands

Wilderness Study Area



Prineville District

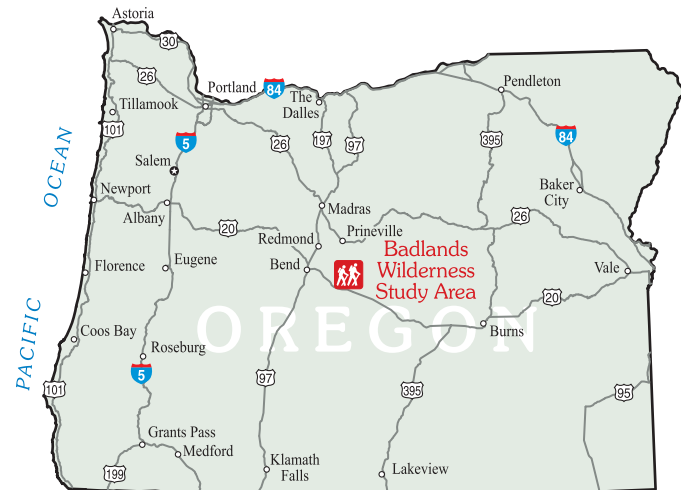


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Welcome to the Badlands Wilderness Study Area

A venture into the Badlands Wilderness Study Area is an experience of ancient junipers, volcanic vistas, and sand underfoot. You can explore cracked volcanic pressure ridges, called tumuli, or walk narrow moat-like cracks in the ground. Traces of human history are visible to the careful observer. A gnarled and blackened lightning-struck juniper stands alone among rolling ridges of lava. At 32,321 acres, the Badlands Wilderness Study Area represents an outstanding example of ancient western juniper forests atop Columbia River Basalts. Almost 50 miles of two-track trails offer the visitor many opportunities for hiking or riding loops of various lengths.

As a Wilderness Study Area, the Badlands Wilderness Study Area has interim protection until Congress decides to either designate the area as Wilderness or release it to other uses.



Know Before You Go

Visitors to the Badlands Wilderness Study Area can help in protecting this fragile desert ecosystem by adequately planning their trip and by arriving prepared. Knowledge of the area, weather, terrain, limitations of your body, and common sense can help to ensure a safe trip. Trail junctions are unsigned, so visitors should carry a map.

- Walk Abreast When Walking Cross-Country.** When off-trail, single file traffic creates entrenched social trails which detract from the sense of solitude; the single passage of feet tends to heal more quickly in the wind. Bicycles, stock animals, and horse and game carts are allowed only on designated trails.
- Dispose of Waste Properly.** Pack out and do not burn or bury your trash. Do bury human waste 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet (about 70 adult paces) from camp. Equestrians should pack home trailhead and staging area horse manure.
- Minimize Campfire Impacts.** Burn only dead and downed wood no bigger than the diameter of your forearm. Do not limb trees – they are an essential part of the Badlands Wilderness Study Area experience.
- Protect Cultural Resources.** Should you happen upon a pictograph or artifact, observe and enjoy it – in its place. Touching, marking, tracing, or otherwise disturbing can cause irreparable damage.
- Leave What You Find.** Leave rocks, plants, artifacts, and what even appears to be old junk as you find them.
- Protect Natural Resources.**
 - Carving of trees, vandalism, and graffiti is illegal. Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them. Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers. Control pets at all times.
 - Areas within the boundaries of the Badlands Wilderness Study Area are closed to motorized use.
 - The maximum group size is 20 people per group. All bicycle, game cart, and other mechanized travel, as well as pack animals, are limited to designated trails.
 - Firearm discharge is prohibited unless legally hunting. Within a quarter mile of Badlands Rock, all firearm discharge is prohibited year-round.

