

NEWS Release

Bureau of Land Management • Forest Service

BLM Prineville District Office - 3050 NE Third Street - Prineville, Oregon 97754 - www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville
Deschutes National Forest – 63095 Deschutes Market Rd. – Bend, Oregon 97702 - www.fs/fed/us/r6/centraloregon
Ochoco National Forest – 3160 NE Third Street – Prineville, Oregon 97754 – www.fs/fed/us/r6/centraloregon

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FOREST SERVICE**
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FIRE RESTRICTIONS BEGINNING TO LIFT IN CENTRAL OREGON

Central Oregon – With cooler, wetter weather predicted, officials with the Ochoco National Forest and the Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management have made the decision to lift public fire use restrictions, effective 12:01 a.m. October 13, 2012 (Saturday). Annual fire closures on BLM-administered lands along the Lower Deschutes, Crooked, and White Rivers and Lake Billy Chinook will remain in effect through October 15, 2012.

Officials with the Deschutes National Forest will continue to monitor conditions daily and will lift fire restrictions as soon as conditions allow. “We recognize that people are heading out to camp and hunt this time of year, and they expect to have campfires,” said Alex Robertson, Acting Fire Staff for the Forest Service and BLM in Central Oregon. “However, the Deschutes is still experiencing a high number of human-caused wildfires and we’re still seeing growth on these fires due to dry conditions. We appreciate everyone’s patience while we wait for enough moisture to limit the potential for a fire to start and spread.”

Fire officials with the Oregon Department of Forestry would like to remind the public that all fire restrictions will remain in place on private and non-federal lands in Central Oregon as well.

Restrictions do vary across the state, so people traveling to hunt or recreate in other parts of the state should remember to call before they travel to find out what restrictions are in place before having a campfire.

About the BLM: The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

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