

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-030-2012-24

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Lightning Strikes-Sunday August 19th

Vale, Ore–Bureau of Land Management Vale District-Sunday August 19th the District experienced additional lightning storms. This time lightning also struck in the northern part of the District near Baker City.

Ten Mile #2-Lightning strikes again struck the southern portion of the Vale District and northern Nevada. A 50 acre fire resulted, in close proximity, to where only just last week lightning ignited the Ten Mile Complex. Initial attack forces, from Pendleton's type 1 team in McDermitt Nevada, were able to quickly respond and kept this fire from spreading.

Sardine Fire-For the first time this season, lightning struck the north part of the Vale District on Sunday, August 19th. The resulting fire from lightning was reported at approximately 4:00 pm PDT. The fire is located 10 miles southeast of the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and 10 miles northwest of Durkee Oregon. BLM's initial attack forces, with the Vale BLM contract helicopter providing water drops, assistance from Oregon Department of Forestry, the Wallow-Whitman National Forest, Payette National Forest and Burnt River Fire Protection all responded to the fire emergency. Currently, 7 engines, one dozer and one water tender are working on the fire. An additional 15 engines, 3 dozers and 3 water tenders should arrive on the fire this morning. Fire officials reported that humidity recovery overnight is currently keeping this fire from growing early this morning but the Baker City area is under a **fire weather watch** for additional isolated lightning through Tuesday. The resulting down draft winds from thunderstorms can blow burning embers across firelines or fan embers causing spot fires.

The Vale District will be on the lookout today for additional fires (sleeper fires) caused by the lightning last night, initial attack forces are on a heightened state of alert.

Additional information about the BLM Vale District can be found by visiting the district website at www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale.

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.

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