

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM
Vale District Office

News Release
For Immediate Release
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Public Use Restrictions Changing

VALE, OREGON –Vale District Manager, Dave Henderson, announced today, September 7, 2007 at 12:01a.m., “Public use restrictions on the lands administered by the Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will change to allow firewood cutting and to permit campfires in fire rings in designated campgrounds. Though we are easing the fire restrictions, this does not mean that fire season is over.”

This sentiment was echoed by Tracy Skerjanec, Acting Fire Management Officer for the BLM Vale District “It is a great time to visit the outdoors in eastern Oregon but the public should not be fooled by the recent scattered rains. The rains and cooler nighttime temperatures have eased some of the hazardous fire conditions but they are not enough to have us completely lift the public use restrictions. “

The weather forecast is for continued dry and unseasonably warm conditions. “Hunters, off-road enthusiasts, and other adventures of the great outdoors should make sure they are aware of fire conditions and restrictions in the areas they plan to travel” stated Skerjanec. “Current fire restrictions can be found posted on bulletin boards throughout the District.” The Emergency Fire Prevention Orders are necessary to protect natural resources and the public safety. Violating these public use restrictions can result in a fine up to \$1000.00 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months. If a fire were to start from your activities you could be held liable for the cost of suppressing the fire.

While visitors are asked to be extremely careful with campfires, cooking fires, and stoves, woodcutters can help minimize the risk of fire by having firefighting tools with them and remaining on-site for a 1 hour fire watch after shutting down their chainsaws.

For a current list of fire restriction on the Vale District, visit their website at www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale or contact the district office at (541) 473-6218.

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