

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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News Release
For Immediate Release
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BLM
Vale District Office

BLM Announces Public Use Restrictions

Vale, Oregon – To ensure continued enjoyment of the public lands, visitors must be aware of Public Use Restrictions in the areas they travel to this summer.

The Bureau of Land Management, Vale District Office, announced today restrictions will take effect Wednesday July 2, 2008. These restrictions will apply to the following listed BLM-Managed lands within the Vale District:

- 1- BLM-managed lands located within one statute mile of the Owyhee River beginning at Three Forks Recreation Area downstream to the confluence of the Snake River,
- 2-BLM-managed public lands located within one statute mile of the Snake River beginning at Farewell Bend Oregon downstream to Fisher Gulch in Asotin County, Washington, and
- 3- BLM-managed public lands located within one statute mile of the Wallowa River and the Grande Ronde River from Minam, Oregon downstream to the confluence of the Snake River.

According to Jason Simmons, Vale District Assistant Fire Management Officer, the restrictions that are going into effect are due to an extreme build-up of dry fine fuels. "We constantly evaluate the fuel conditions in the district, and we don't like to put unnecessary restrictions on public land users. But the indicators say it's time to take a few extra precautions, and that's what we're going to do."

A REMINDER: You must not possess, discharge or use any type of fireworks or other pyrotechnic device to include sparklers on public lands at any time. If you are caught you will be cited and/or held responsible for the suppression costs should a fire result.

Prohibited activities include: Building, maintaining or attending a camp fire, or a stove fire, including charcoal briquette fire and smoking outside of a vehicle or building. Campfires are permitted within existing metal fire rings at the following recreations sites: Slocum Creek Park or Rome Launch Site in Malheur County, Westfall, Airport, Bob Creek, Spring Recreation sites and Carters Landing, in Baker County.

In addition to the restrictions, other requirements are specified in the posted orders. Liquefied and bottled gas stoves and heaters are permitted; however, when used outside of developed recreation sites they must be used within an area at least ten feet in diameter that is clear of all flammable materials. Smoking outdoors is only permitted within areas barren of all flammable materials for at least a three-foot diameter, or aboard boats on rivers and lakes. "We still want people to enjoy their public lands," said Simmons, "we just want them to use caution and common sense so we can all continue to enjoy them. We're committed to doing everything we can to prevent fires, ensure public safety, and protect the public lands. These restrictions are just a way of getting the word out that we need everyone's help." Individuals who violate restrictions on public lands not only endanger themselves and others, but they may be subject to penalties including fines and imprisonment.

For more information on current restrictions within the Vale District BLM visit the website at www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale or contact the Vale Dispatch Center at 541-473-6294 or 1-800-982-0287.

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