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HUNTERS URGED TO USE CAUTION

VALE, Oregon –

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With fire season well under way on the Vale District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Officials are very concerned with the volatile fire danger that exists, and are cautioning hunters and other public land users to be extremely careful while visiting public lands.

According to Tracy Skerjanec, BLM Fire Management Officer, fire danger is extreme and our public lands are ripe for more large fires. He continued saying that year to date the district has already burned nearly 100,000 acres, which is twice our normal acres burned. He continued stating; that one of the reasons for so many large fires is fuel moistures are unusually low, and any type of open flame or spark can easily ignite a fire that can quickly escape any type of suppression effort.

Skerjanec urges all land users to comply with the following fire prevention orders when enjoying their public lands. He ends saying if we all work together we can insure our favorite places to hunt and use for other recreation activities will be there to enjoy in the future.

Orders to be enforced:

- 1. You must not ignite any fireworks.**
- 2. You must not build, maintain or attend a campfire or stove fire, including charcoal briquette fires on any public land managed by the Vale District. NOTE: Liquefied and bottled gas stoves and heaters are permitted. When used outside of developed recreation sites they must be used within an area at least ten (10) feet in diameter that is barren, or clear of all flammable materials.**
- 3. You must not smoke outside of a vehicle, trailer or building, except within areas barren of all flammable materials for at least a 3 foot diameter, or aboard boats on rivers and lakes.**
- 4. You must not operate an automobile, pickup, truck, or any other motorized equipment that is wider than 50 inches or has a dry weight of 800 pounds or more, on public lands without a shovel not less than 26" in overall length, with a blade not less than 8" wide, and a container with at least one gallon of water, or a fully charged 2.5 pound fire extinguisher.**



5. **Class 1 ATVs and class 3 motorcycles are not required to have a fire extinguisher or shovel but must have a USFS approved spark arrester as apart of the exhaust system of the vehicle.**
6. **You must not park your vehicle or operate an internal combustion engine (i.e. generator) in an area that is not clear of all flammable material.**
7. **You must not operate a motorized vehicle off of existing roads and ways or on roads and ways with vegetation present that exceeds 6 inches in height. Off road travel by any motorized vehicle is prohibited until this order is rescinded.**
8. **All Chainsaws are prohibited.**

Violations of these orders are punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both. In addition individuals that start a wildfire on BLM administrated lands or start a fire that spreads onto BLM administrated lands can be billed for all suppression costs, resource damages, and land rehabilitation.

