

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>

Contact: Tara Martinak (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-BU-12-18 • July 9, 2012

SUNDAY THUNDERSTORM BRINGS WILDFIRE TO HARNEY COUNTY

HINES, Ore. – The brief thunderstorm that swept through the area Sunday afternoon brought Harney County its first large wildfire of the season. The Miller Homestead fire, located approximately 12 miles west of Frenchglen, is burning in grass and brush on Bureau of Land Management-administered land.

On Sunday evening, two Single Engine Air Tankers dropped loads of retardant along the fire perimeter, working to slow the fire spread as winds fanned flames in all directions during the hottest part of the day. Today, over 40 firefighters, 10 engines, and 2 dozers are working to establish control lines around the incident. The Miller Homestead fire is estimated at 5 percent contained and 4,000-5,000 acres.

Firefighters can anticipate the already-busy week to continue as a Red Flag Warning for thunderstorms producing abundant lightning has been issued until 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 10. A Red Flag Warning means that weather or fuel moisture conditions are at hazardous levels and could lead to rapid or dramatic increases in wildfire activity. Higher temperatures with lower humidity are forecasted for the coming days, and fires heating up from recent lightning storms could pop up in the area.

Fire danger remains MODERATE within the Burns Interagency Fire Zone and the Industrial Fire Precaution Level moves to a level two, partial hoot owl, on Tuesday, July 10. A regulated fire closure is in effect for the east side of Steens Mountain. Visitors should use caution when traveling through and recreating in the outdoors this time of year.

To report a wildfire, call 573-1000.

For more information on current wildfire activity, **call 573-4519.**

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.

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