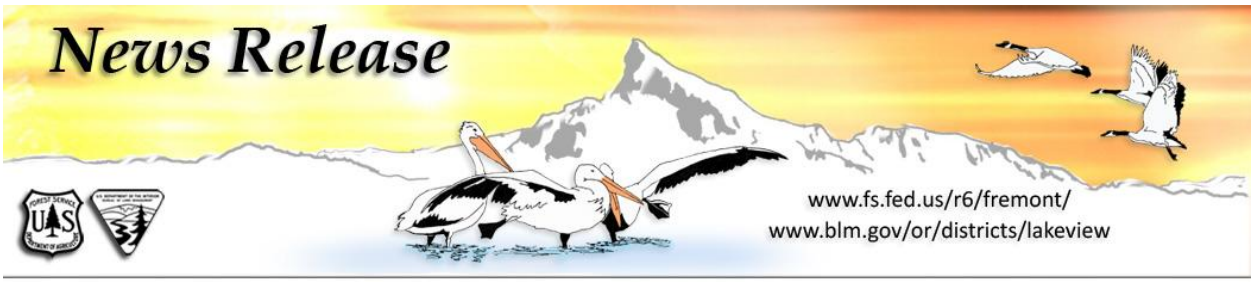

July 13, 2009

Contact: Erica Hupp
Fremont-Winema National Forests
541-883-6715

Scott Stoffel
BLM Lakeview District
541-947-6237

Lisa Swinney
Fremont-Winema National Forests
541-947-6261

FIRE DANGER LEVEL INCREASES ON PUBLIC LANDS IN SOUTH CENTRAL OREGON

Lakeview – Effective Thursday, July 16, Industrial Fire Precaution Level II (IFPL) will be implemented on lands administered by the Lakeview District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Fremont-Winema National Forests.

The only BLM-managed lands not included in this order are those within the Klamath Falls Resource Area that are west of the Langell Valley. This area is under the protection of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Information regarding restrictions that apply to ODF protected lands may be obtained by calling (541) 883-5681 or visiting the following Web site:

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/precautionlevel.shtml

Under IFPL II, the following fire precautionary requirements are placed on power saw operations**:**

- Power saws and welding equipment may not be operated between the hours of 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

- All power saw exhaust systems must be in good repair and include a screen-type spark arrester of 0.023 inches or less.

- All power saw operators must be in possession of the following equipment:
    - A long-handled, round point shovel with a blade not less than eight inches wide; and
    - A pressurized chemical fire extinguisher of not less than eight ounces capacity by weight.

-more-

- Before refueling a power saw, the refueling spot must be clear of all flammable material, including vegetation. The chainsaw must be restarted only after the operator has moved away from the refueling area.

- All power saw operators must stay in the cutting area for one hour after the chainsaw is shut off to watch for fire starts.

Personal and commercial woodcutters are reminded of their responsibility to stay informed of current IFPLs and all restrictions that apply to activities conducted on public lands. Failure to comply with fire precautionary requirements may result in the issuance of a Violation Notice.

Information on the IFPL or current restrictions may be obtained at 541-883-6831 for the Klamath Falls Interagency Fire Center or 541-947-6259 for the Lakeview Interagency Fire Center.

Additional information on IFPL II can be found at the following Web sites:

Lakeview Interagency Fire Center
http://www.scofmp.org/lifc.shtml

Klamath Falls Interagency Fire Center
http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/kfifc/intel.html

Fremont-Winema National Forests
http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/frewin/fire/index.shtml

For more information about how you can prevent wildfires, contact your local BLM, Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Park Service or Oregon Department of Forestry office.

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