

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3050 NE Third Street • Prineville, Oregon 97754 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville>

For immediate release: May 26, 2011

Contact: Lisa Clark (541) 280-9560

Annual Campfire Restrictions on BLM Rivers Begin June 1

Central Oregon – In spite of recent cooler weather, the annual public use restrictions and campfire closures will go into effect June 1 on portions of the Deschutes, John Day and Crooked Rivers, as well as on BLM-administered lands along Lake Billy Chinook. The number one goal of the BLM is promoting safety, and the river canyons present a combination of limited access, grassy fuels that dry out quickly, and steep slopes that allow wildfires to spread rapidly.

The closures prohibit building, igniting, maintaining, attending, using, tending, or being within 20 feet of a campfire, charcoal fire, or any other type of open flame. This closure bans the use of portable propane campfires and wood pellet burning devices. The closure also restricts areas where visitors can smoke to non-public buildings, closed vehicles, in boats on the water or while standing in the water.

The specific closure locations apply to BLM-administered lands in the following areas:

- Within ½ mile of the Crooked River's edge from the Highway 97 bridge to Lake Billy Chinook;
- Within ½ mile of the Deschutes River's edge from the Highway 20 bridge to Lake Billy Chinook;
- Within ½ mile of Lake Simtustus (located between Round Butte Dam and Pelton Dam);
- Within the Lower Deschutes National Wild and Scenic River corridor, which extends from Pelton Dam to the Columbia River;
- Within ½ mile of Lake Billy Chinook, including the BLM Beach dispersed recreation site located ½ mile east of the Three Rivers Recreation Area on the south shore of the Metolius Arm of the lake;
- Within ½ mile of the White River's edge from its confluence with the Deschutes River upstream to the eastern boundary of the Mt. Hood National Forest.
- The Mainstem John Day River from Tumwater Falls (River Mile 10) upstream to Kimberly (RM 185);
- The North Fork John Day River, from the confluence with the mainstem at Kimberly (RM 0) upstream to the Umatilla National Forest boundary (RM 62); and,
- The South Fork John Day River from Smokey Creek (RM 6) upstream to the Malheur Forest (RM 47).

Except in emergency conditions or permission by an agency authorized officer, there are no exceptions to this closure. A violation of this closure is punishable to by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both.

For more information about these closures, or other fire restrictions on BLM-administered lands in Central Oregon, please call the Prineville BLM District Office at (541) 416-6700. For current information on public use restrictions, fire closures or changes to the Industrial Fire Precaution Level on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and the Prineville BLM, please call the information line at 1-800-523-4737.

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About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – more than 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. 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.

BLM
Prineville District Office

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