

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

1103 N. Fancher • Spokane Valley, WA 99212 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane>

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BLM Eases some Fire Restrictions in Eastern Washington

Spokane, Wash. – Fall is in the air but the threat of fire in Eastern Washington is still very real. Fire danger can often remain “high” throughout September and October. Recent precipitation and higher humidity recovery have prompted the Bureau of Land Management’s Spokane District to modify fire restrictions in the area. Campfires at some designated campgrounds are now allowed within constructed fire rings. Off-road travel from designated routes will also be allowed provided users are equipped to suppress a fire, should one occur.

The following modifications to existing fire restrictions are effective Friday, August 29, 2014, in the following Eastern Washington counties: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima.

Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire, is allowed within BLM-provided steel rings at improved campgrounds at the Yakima River Canyon, Coffeepot, Liberty, Chopaka, Washburn, Pacific Lake and Twin Lakes recreation sites.

Off-road travel on roadways other than those that are defined as developed is permitted provided users adhere to the following: Users must carry a shovel at least 26 inches in length with at least an eight-inch blade, and either a one-gallon container of water or a fully charged 2.5 pound fire extinguisher. All motorcycles and All-Terrain Vehicles must be equipped with a properly functioning U.S. Forest Service approved spark arrestor.

Restrictions on parking vehicles off of developed roadways and smoking in timbered or grassy areas are still in place. For a complete version of the modified fire restriction order effective August 29, 2014, please visit: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/index.php>

Visitors to BLM-managed lands are reminded that fireworks and shooting of exploding targets on public lands is prohibited from May through mid-October. Those dates are subject to change annually based on the fire danger level.

-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. The BLM’s mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

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