

# 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 Announces Fire Restrictions in Eastern and Central Washington

*Spokane, Wash.* – Wildfire season in eastern and central Washington is off to an aggressive start. Complicating the efforts of firefighters to manage ignitions caused by Mother Nature is the increasing number of fires that are being started by humans. Since the first week of July, the majority of fire starts on BLM-managed lands in eastern and central Washington have been human-caused.

This high occurrence of human-caused fires, combined with the hot and dry weather and current fuels conditions, has prompted BLM fire managers to issue fire restrictions on BLM-managed lands in the following 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.**

The following acts **are prohibited** effective July 19, 2014 at 12:01 a.m. on affected lands:

- Operating any type of motorized vehicle off developed roadways. Parking of vehicles off roadways must be done in an area barren of flammable materials. **Note:** Developed roadways are those that are clear of flammable debris berm to berm. When operating a motorized vehicle on public lands, you 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.
- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire – including charcoal briquette fire **Exception:** Camp Fires within BLM-provided steel rings at improved campgrounds will be deemed legal **only** at the Yakima River Canyon, Coffeepot, Chopaka, Washburn, Pacific Lake and Twin Lakes sites. Liberty Campground will follow USFS restriction levels. Liquefied and bottled gas stoves and heaters are permitted provided they are used within an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
- Smoking while traveling in timber, brush or grass areas **except** in vehicles on roads, or cleared areas at least three feet in diameter, or on boats on rivers and/or lakes

On all public lands within the Spokane District, ignition of fireworks and use of exploding targets remains prohibited.

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“We still want people to enjoy their public lands,” says Fire Management Officer Dennis Strange, “but we have to balance that with reasonable restrictions to prevent wildfire. It may be necessary to implement further restrictions if conditions warrant. We will continue to keep the public informed as situations change.”

Please be extra cautious this summer when visiting your public lands.

Fire restrictions are in effect until rescinded. For specific information regarding the order please check the following websites:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/index.php>

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/firedanger/BurnRisk.aspx>

-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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Spokane District Office  
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