

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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News Release
For Immediate Release
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BLM Announces Additional Public Use Restrictions

Vale, Oregon –The Bureau of Land Management, Vale District Office, announced today additional restrictions will take effect Saturday July 12, 2008. These restrictions will apply to **all public lands** administered by the Vale District Bureau of Land Management.

According to Tracy Skerjanec, Vale District Assistant Fire Management Officer, the additional restrictions that are going into effect are due to the higher temperatures the last several weeks. “The light fuels that characterize rangeland in this area take very little time to dry out with wind and higher temperatures. We constantly evaluate the fuel conditions in the district, and we’ve seen the moisture levels drop significantly to trigger the additional restrictions.”

The restrictions will be posted in areas throughout the district and prohibit having fireworks or other pyrotechnic devices. Campfires are only permitted within existing metal fire rings located at Chukar Park near Juntura; Westfall, Airport, Bob Creek, Spring Recreation sites and Carters Landing, in Baker County.

In addition to the restrictions, other requirements are specified in the posted orders. Liquefied and bottled gas stoves and heaters are permitted; however, when used outside of developed recreation sites they must be used within an area at least ten feet in diameter that is clear of all flammable materials. Smoking outdoors is only permitted within areas barren of all flammable materials for at least a three-foot diameter, or aboard boats on rivers and lakes. 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.

“We still want people to enjoy their public lands, said Skerjanec, “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.”

For more information on current restrictions within the Vale District BLM visit the website at www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale or contact the Vale Dispatch Center at 541-473-6294 or 1-800-982-0287.

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