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## BLM Lifts Fire Restrictions on Vale District Public Lands

VALE, OREGON – Effective October 5, 2011 the Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management is rescinding the Fire Prevention Order for all public lands administered by BLM's Vale District.

According to Vale District Deputy Fire Management Officer, Tracy Skerjanec, "Conditions have improved and we have made the decision to drop the public use restrictions throughout the District. Though Emergency Restrictions have been lifted, wildfires can be very destructive, so we encourage visitors to use caution with fire or with equipment that poses a fire risk."

Hunters are reminded to be extra careful when they build campfires: never leave your fire unattended and make sure it is dead out before breaking camp. Afternoon temperatures and wind can rekindle a smoldering fire, which could cause a wildfire. Exhaust systems on vehicles start numerous fires too; check for any brush or debris that might be trapped in or around your catalytic converter. It is recommended you still carry a shovel and a container of water to put out your campfire and a fire extinguisher for other fire emergencies.

Vale District Fire Prevention Officer Tom Morcom said, "I would like to thank the public for their awareness during this year's fire season. Fire prevention patrols have continually reported that public land visitors have done an outstanding job following the requirements of the Emergency Fire Prevention Order. There is still a need for your continued diligence in preventing wildfires until the District receives significant rainfall and lower temperatures" said Morcom.

For further information, you can contact the Vale District at 541-473-3144 or 541-473-6295 or visit their website at [www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale).

**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.

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