

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-030-2015-015

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Vale BLM Battling 3 Wildfires South of Baker City

Vale, Ore. –Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Vale District resources are responding to three wildfires off of Interstate-84. The fires were reported today around noon.

The largest of the three is being called the Lime Hill Fire, located just west of Interstate-84 at mile marker 344. It is currently estimated to be approximately 600 acres in size. There are 12 engines on scene, with five more en route. 10 air resources are also on scene including five Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs), one heavy air tanker and 4 helicopters. Given weather conditions, there is high potential that the fire will spread. Downed power lines and damaged utility poles have also been spotted and are being assessed by Idaho Power Company. The Lime Hill Fire is also in Priority Sage-grouse habitat.

There is no estimate as to when the Lime Hill Fire will be contained.

The Alder Creek Fire is estimated at two acres. It is also located to the west of Interstate-84 near mile marker 322, between the Pleasant Valley and Durkee exits. There are currently two engines on scene, from both the U.S. Forest Service and the Vale District BLM.

The smallest of the three fires is the Johnson Area Fire. It is currently one acre in size and is also to the west of Interstate-84 near mile marker 324. The Johnson Area Fire is actually a complex of three fires which has grown into a single fire. There are currently resources on scene from the Vale BLM, the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Baker City Fire Department and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Due to their size, both the Alder Creek and Johnson Area Fires are likely to be contained soon. Still, weather and varying conditions could increase the potential for the fires to spread.

No cause has yet been determined for any of the three fires. Vale District BLM fire investigators are currently investigating possible causes.

Report any wildfires or suspicious smoke to the Vale BLM Dispatch Center at 541-473-6218.

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 and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

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