

# NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

100 Oregon Street • Vale, Oregon 97918 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale>

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-030-2012-10**  
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**BLM**  
Vale District Office

## **BLM Announces Public Use Restrictions**

**Vale, Oregon** – The Bureau of Land Management, Vale District Office, announced today restrictions will take effect Thursday July 12, 2012. These restrictions will apply to all public lands within the Vale District.

To ensure continued enjoyment of the public lands, visitors must be aware of Public Use Restrictions as they travel to lands administered by the Vale District BLM this summer. According to Bob Narus, Vale District Fire Management Officer, the restrictions that are going into effect are due to high temperatures, low humidity and vegetation is very dry. "We constantly evaluate conditions in the district, and we don't like to put unnecessary restrictions on public land users. But the indicators say it's time to take extra precautions."

**A REMINDER: You must not possess, discharge or use any type of fireworks or other pyrotechnic device to include sparklers on public lands at any time. If you are caught you will be cited and/or held responsible for the suppression costs should a fire result.**

In addition to the restrictions, other requirements are specified in the posted orders.

1. You must not build, maintain or attend any **fire, or** stove fire including: charcoal briquette fire, except within the existing metal fire rings located at the following Recreation sites, Bob Creek, Spring Recreation Site and Carters Landing, in Baker County and Chukar Park in Malheur County. **NOTE: Liquefied and bottled gas stoves and heaters are permitted. When used outside of developed recreation sites they must be used within an area at least ten (10) feet in diameter that is barren, or clear of all flammable materials.**
2. You must not smoke outside of a vehicle, trailer or building, except within areas barren of all flammable materials for at least a 3 foot diameter, or aboard boats on rivers and lakes.
3. Again, you must not possess, discharge or use any type of fireworks or other pyrotechnic device to include sparkers. This order does not differentiate between lawful use or

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careless/negligent use of fireworks, but prohibits all fireworks activity and their use on public lands as identified.

4. You must not operate a chainsaw.
5. You must not park your vehicle or operate any type of internal combustion engine (generators, weed eaters, etc.) in an area that is not clear of all flammable material.
6. You must not operate a motorized vehicle outside of existing roads and ways. This prohibits cross country travel and is prohibited until this order is rescinded.

You must not operate an automobile, pickup, truck, or any other motorized equipment that is wider than 50 inches or has a dry weight of 800 pounds or more, on public lands without a shovel not less than 26" in overall length, with a blade not less than 8" wide, and a container with at least one gallon of water, or a fully charged 2.5 pound fire extinguisher.

"We still want people to enjoy their public lands," said Narus, "we just want them to use caution and common sense so we can all continue to enjoy them. We're committed to doing everything we can to prevent fires, ensure public safety, and protect the public lands. These restrictions are just a way of getting the word out that we need everyone's help."

Individuals who violate restrictions on public lands not only endanger themselves and others, but they may be subject to penalties including fines and imprisonment.

For further information, or to report wildfires, please contact the Vale BLM Dispatch Center at 541-473-6295 or 1-800-982-0287. Additional information about the BLM Vale District can be found by visiting the district website at [www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale).

-BLM-

**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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