

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

For Immediate Release

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BLM Announces Public Use Restrictions

Vale, Oregon – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Vale District Office, announced today that public use restrictions will take effect July 1, 2014. These restrictions will apply to public lands administered by the BLM, Vale District and Bureau of Reclamation project lands within the boundaries of the Vale District. To ensure continued enjoyment of public lands, visitors need to be aware of these restrictions. According to Bob Narus, District Fire Management Officer, “The restrictions are going into effect due to extremely dry fuels and high temperatures returning for the Fourth of July and remaining after the holiday. We constantly evaluate conditions in the District. The indicators show it is time to take the extra precautions of fire restrictions.” The public is also reminded to monitor vehicle undercarriage and exhaust systems for vegetation build-up before driving and to ensure that trailer wheel bearings and drag chains are properly maintained or secured.

The following restrictions are specified in the Fire Prevention Order:

1. You must not build, maintain or attend a campfire, or stove fire, including charcoal briquette fire, except within the existing metal fire rings located at the following recreation sites; 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 6-foot diameter, or aboard boats on rivers and lakes.
3. You must not possess, discharge, or use any type of fireworks or other pyrotechnic device, to include exploding targets.
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 This prohibits cross country travel until this order is rescinded.
7. 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 inches in overall length, with a blade not less than 8 inches wide, and a container with at least one gallon of water, or a fully charged 2.5-pound fire extinguisher.

Individuals who violate restrictions 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 Vale District can be found at www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale.

~BLM~

The BLM manages more land – 245 million surface 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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