In Reply Refer to:

9212 (ORV004)

Notice of Emergency Fire Prevention Orders on Public Land within the Vale District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Fee and Withdrawn Lands.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Vale, Oregon / Reclamation, PN Region

ACTION: Emergency Fire Prevention Orders for lands administered by and within the boundaries of the Vale District BLM in Baker, Wallowa, Union, Umatilla, Morrow, and Asotin Counties.

SUMMARY: The BLM and Reclamation are temporarily prohibiting some activities and uses of the public lands within the boundaries of the Vale District (BLM) during periods of high fire danger. This regulation is necessary to protect natural resources and the public’s health and safety.

DATES: Beginning on July 29, 2022 and will remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DISCUSSION: These orders will apply to all public lands administered by the Vale District BLM and fee and withdrawn lands under the jurisdiction of Reclamation within the boundaries of the BLM Vale District in Baker, Wallowa, Union, Umatilla, and Morrow Counties in Oregon and Asotin County in Washington. These agencies have determined that these orders are necessary to protect natural resources and provide for public safety. Reclamation lands administered by agencies other than the BLM will determine their own restrictions.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 9212.2 and 43 CFR 423.3(d), the following acts are prohibited on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (Vale District) and Reclamation jurisdictional lands within the Vale District (BLM):

Prohibited activities:

1. Building, maintaining, or attending an open fire, or wood-fired stove, smoker, or portable brazier fire, including charcoal briquette fires. NOTE: Liquefied and bottled gas equipment is permitted for cooking and warming purposes only. When used outside of developed recreation sites, they must be within an area at least ten (10) feet in diameter that is barren, or clear of all vegetative materials.

2. Smoking outside of a vehicle, trailer, or building, except within areas barren of all vegetative materials for at least a six (6) foot diameter, or aboard boats on rivers and lakes.

3. Possessing, discharging, or using any type of fireworks, explosives, or other explosive or chemical composition pyrotechnic device, including exploding targets.

4. Shooting at any metallic object, including but not limited to using metal targets for target shooting.
5. Discharging or using tracer, incendiary, or steel component ammunition, except a person with a valid State hunting license actively engaged in the legal pursuit/take of Game/Non-Game species in accordance with current hunting seasons.

6. Operating a chainsaw, blowtorch, or the cutting, grinding, and/or welding of metal.

7. Releasing or causing to be released any airborne paper lanterns (sky lanterns), fire balloons, or other aerial luminaries.

8. Operating or parking an internal combustion motorized vehicle outside of existing roads or ways, or traversing roads with vegetative material that touches the undercarriage of the vehicle.

9. Operating any other equipment with an internal combustion engine in an area that is not clear of vegetative material up to ten feet in diameter.

10. Operating any motorized vehicle or equipment that is wider than 46 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 and operable 2.5-pound fire extinguisher. All motorcycles, All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV), and side-by-side Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) must be equipped with an approved and functional spark arrestor.

PENALTIES: On BLM lands, under section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733 (a)) and 43 CFR 9212.4, any person who violates any of the supplementary rules within the boundaries established in the rules may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than $1,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571. On BOR project lands under section (l)(a) of Pub. L. 107-69, you are subject to a fine under chapter 227, subchapter C of title 18 Untied States Code (18 U.S.C. 3571), or can be imprisoned for not more than 6 months, or both, if you violate:

a) The provisions of this part 423; or

b) Any condition, limitation, or prohibition on uses or activities, or of public use limits, imposed under this part 423. Pursuant to 43 CFR 9212.3(a) and 43 CFR 423.3(d), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

2. Any Federal, State, or local officer or a member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

27 July 2027

Darrel W. Monger
District Manager