EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC LANDS

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District, Oregon.

ACTION: Temporary Closure of Public Lands

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 43 CFR 9212.2(a) and 43 CFR 9212.4, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hereby provides notice that, effective immediately, the public lands described below are closed to all forms of public access. This action is in response to wildfires currently or recently active in the area and damage from those wildfires. The BLM is closing public lands in order to reduce conflicts with emergency crews and allow for fire suppression and repair, and to allow for burned area site recovery, as well as to ensure public safety, land health, and resource integrity.

AFFECTED AREA: All BLM-managed public lands, roads, sites, and trails within the Van Meter Fire Perimeter are shown on the attached map and detailed below. The following BLM administered Lands are affected by this closure:

T39S R10E
Section 25

T39S R11.5E
Sections 30, 31, 32

T40S R11E
Sections 5, 6, 8

Please see attached map.

DATES: This closure is effective immediately and will remain in effect until such time as conditions allow for safe use of the public lands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa McNee, Public Affairs Specialist, telephone (541) 219-9180. This notice and the closure notice are also available online at https://www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-info/oregon-washington/fire-restrictions.

DISCUSSION OF THE RULES: The public must not enter the closure area. All uses within the closure area are prohibited. Exceptions to these prohibitions are noted below under Exemptions.
EXEMPTIONS: The following persons are exempt from the provisions of this Order:

1. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized medical, rescue, or firefighting force engaged in fire, emergency, or law enforcement activities, or public utility employees engaged in emergency repairs.
2. BLM employees, contractors, or agents engaged in official duties.
3. Individuals operating within the scope of their official and legitimate governmental duties.
4. Individuals with valid existing rights for access (e.g., Reciprocal and Unilateral Right of Way agreement holders, permittees, or leaseholders, or internal landowners).
5. Parties who carry written approval by the BLM Authorized Officer (Field Manager or District Manager) allowing access to the described public lands.

PENALTIES: Any person who violates this may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined in accordance with 18 U.S.C. 3571, imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Vehicles found in violation of this order may be removed.

EFFECTIVE: This Order is effective immediately upon signature.

JAMES FORBES

Lakeview District Manager

Date