



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Department of Forestry

Northeast Oregon District

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### REGULATED USE CLOSURE IN NORTHEAST OREGON ON PRIVATE LAND

Effective 01:00 am August 1, 2009

Lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Northeast Oregon District, will be placed into a **Regulated Use Closure effective at 1:00 am August 1, 2009**. The Regulated Use Closure affects private, state, county, municipal, and tribal lands in six counties: Union, Baker, Wallowa, Umatilla, Malheur, and small portions of Morrow and Grant. The Regulated Use Closure is intended to protect natural resources and public health and safety.

David King, Pendleton Unit Forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry, states "The potential for wildfire has reached very high to extreme levels in much of Northeast Oregon, particularly in the low to mid elevation grasslands and forested areas. The Regulated Use Closure for private forest lands is designed to help fire managers reduce the threat of human caused fires during this hot and dry period. While many fires in the forest are ignited by lightning, a significant number of wildfires each year are caused by human activities. These fires are difficult to predict when and where they might occur, and often threaten homes and other improvements within the wildland urban interface."

- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water, or at a cleared area.
- Debris burning is prohibited, except in burn barrels for which a valid permit has been issued.
- Non-industrial chain saw use is prohibited between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Chain saw use is permitted at all other hours, if the following fire fighting equipment is present with each operating saw: one axe, one shovel, and one operational 8 oz. or larger fire extinguisher. In addition, a fire watch is required for at least one hour following the use of each chain saw.
- Use of all motorized vehicles is prohibited, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, except on improved roads or for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.
- Possession of fire fighting equipment is required while traveling, except on state and county roads, and driveways: one axe, one shovel, and one gallon of water or one operational 2 1/2 pound or larger fire extinguisher.
- Use of fireworks and exploding targets are prohibited. Cutting, grinding, and welding of metal are prohibited during the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Additional restrictions apply during all other hours.
- Electric fence controllers shall be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory or certified, and used in compliance with manufacturer's instructions.
- Open fires are prohibited except at designated locations. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuel are allowed. Designated locations within the Regulated Use Closure area can be found at the following State Parks: Emigrant Springs, Ukiah Dale, Catherine Creek, Hilgard Junction, Red Bridge, Wallowa Lake, Minam, and Unity Lake. Make sure campfires in these designated locations are DEAD OUT! before leaving.

Note that when traveling off of private land onto federal land, land use restrictions change. Please check restrictions before conducting activities in the outdoors. Fire danger increases as we move into the hottest, driest part of the summer. Preventing fire starts from human activities reduces impact on our natural resources, enhances our public safety and preserves the natural beauty of northeast Oregon.

Public-Use Restrictions for the Umatilla National Forest go into effect July 30, 2009. Information on Public-Use Restrictions on the Umatilla National Forest are available online at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/). The Bureau of Land Management has implemented Emergency Fire Prevention Orders within the Vale District. These Fire Orders are similar to the restrictions ODF is implementing. The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest generally has higher elevation lands where public use restrictions have yet to be put in place.

Visit our website at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/NEO/aboutneo.shtml#Fire> Information or contact a local Oregon Department of Forestry office for more complete information on ODF Restrictions:

La Grande Unit	(541) 963-3168
Baker City Sub-Unit	(541) 523-5831
Wallowa Unit	(541) 886-2881
Pendleton Unit	(541) 276-3491

"We sincerely appreciate the understanding and assistance of landowners and the general public to help reduce the threat during this period of extreme fire danger." (King)

To report a fire, contact:

Northeast Oregon Dispatch (541) 963-7171

Pendleton Interagency Coordination Center (541) 278-3732

Or, call 9-1-1.

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