



NEWS

September 28, 2007

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
SOUTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT
5286 Table Rock RD
Central Point, OR 97502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SOUTHWEST OREGON NEWS MEDIA

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FIRE SEASON RESTRICTIONS EASED ON ODF-PROTECTED LANDS

Rain in Jackson and Josephine counties has prompted the Oregon Department of Forestry to drop restrictions on power equipment use by the public on most state, private, county and Bureau of Land Management lands protected by the Southwest Oregon District. However, restrictions on open burning, campfires, off-road vehicle use and fireworks use remain in effect.

Power equipment such as chain saws, mowers, brush cutters, welders and grinders may now be used all day. Prior to today, use of these types of equipment had to be suspended between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. It is still a good idea to have a shovel and a water supply close at hand when using these pieces of equipment in grassy and forestland areas.

The fire danger level on ODF-protected lands in Jackson and Josephine counties remains "High" (yellow) and the Industrial Fire Precaution Level is 1 (one).

The following public use restrictions are now in effect:

- All open burning of debris is prohibited. This includes burn barrels.
- Fireworks are prohibited, except in cleared areas such as green lawns and driveways.
- Campfires are allowed only in designated campgrounds. This restriction includes charcoal-fired barbecues; however, stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed.

- Vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, are not allowed on unimproved roads.
- Smoking is allowed only in a vehicle and only while on an improved road.
- In the Wild and Scenic Section of the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Marial:
 - Smoking is prohibited except in boats on the water, and on vegetation-free gravel bars and sand bars.
 - Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, cooking fires and warming fires.
Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels, and charcoal fires for cooking and built in raised fire pans, are allowed on vegetation-free gravel bars and sand bars.
 - Travelers must carry a shovel and bucket (one-gallon size).
 - Fireworks are prohibited.

Under Industrial Fire Precaution Level 1, commercial operations, such as timber harvesting, conducted on forestlands are required to have fire suppression equipment on the job site at all times, and a watchman must be provided. This affects regulated use areas SW-1, SW-2, SW-3 and SW-4. For a map of these areas, see your local ODF unit office (addresses below) or view an online map at www.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/images/fwz.jpeg

For more information about the Oregon Department of Forestry's fire season regulations, contact the unit office in your area:

- Medford Unit, 5286 Table Rock Rd., Central Point. Phone: (541) 664-3328
- Grants Pass Unit, 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass. Phone: (541) 474-3152

Southwest Oregon District fire precaution level information is also posted on the World Wide Web at www.swofire.oregon.gov.

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