

Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Prineville District Bureau of Land Management News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 21, 2010
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Industrial Fire Precaution Increase on Public Lands

CENTRAL OREGON—As temperatures and fire danger increase, fire restrictions are being implemented on public lands in Central Oregon. Beginning tomorrow, Thursday July 22, at midnight, “Industrial Fire Precaution Level-II” restrictions will go into effect for the Deschutes National Forest and the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management.

Many refer to this level as "partial hootowl" because chainsaw, cable yarding, blasting, welding and metal-cutting operations may only occur between the hours of 8 p.m. to 1 p.m. These regulations affect both commercial and personal use firewood cutters, and industrial operators.

Fire officials urge visitors to public lands to be extremely careful with campfires, lanterns, charcoal briquettes, chainsaws and recreational vehicles. If you have a campfire, make sure it is dead out before leaving. People who start wildland fires can be fined, jailed and billed for suppression costs. The best way to extinguish a fire is to use a mixture of water and soil to cool it and stir with a shovel thoroughly, feeling for any residual heat with your hand. If heat remains, so should you!

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is currently enforcing a regulated closure effective 6:00 a.m. on July 21, 2010, for private lands protected by the agency in Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Morrow, Wasco, Umatilla, Lake and Wheeler counties. This closure regulates the use of fire activities or activities that could cause a fire.

On June 1, 2010 the Prineville Bureau of Land Management began enforcing a regulated fire closure for the John Day, Crooked and White Rivers and Lake Billy Chinook, which remains in effect.

Fire regulations will become more restrictive as fire danger increases from high to extreme levels. Please check local restrictions before visiting public or private lands. Current fire restrictions can be found by checking agency websites, speaking to campground hosts, reading posted signs and calling recorded messages.

To check Industrial Fire Precaution Levels and Public Use Restrictions for Central Oregon call 1-800-523-4737 or log onto: www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/fire

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To report fires or fireworks violations, call 9-1-1.