

July 23, 2002

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

FIRE DANGER INCREASE PROMPTS ADDITIONAL PUBLIC USE RESTRICTIONS

The Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ) has increased restrictions on public use on National Forest and Public Lands within the Zone beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, July 25 reports Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District Manager Tom Dyer. "The Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) will shift to Level 4, at the same time," says Dyer.

Additional public use restrictions include:

1. Prohibition of open fires anywhere, including all developed campgrounds with the exception of the Fish Lake and Jackman Park campgrounds on Steens Mountain.
2. Prohibition of off road vehicle travel

People who plan on visiting the Emigrant Creek Ranger District or public lands in BLM's Burns District should need to comply with the following complete list of restrictions to help reduce the chance of wild fire starts:

1. Do not ignite any fireworks
2. Do not build, maintain, or attend a campfire or cook stove fire, including charcoal briquette fire, except at the following two campgrounds within existing metal fire rings: Fish Lake and Jackman Park. Note: Liquefied and bottled gas stoves are permitted. When used outside of developed recreation sites, they must be used within an area at least ten (10) feet in diameter that is barren or clear of all flammable material.
3. Do not smoke outside of a vehicle, trailer, or building, except within areas barren of all flamm
4. Do not operate a motorized vehicle upon public land without one shovel not less than 26 inches in overall length, with a blade not less than 8 inches wide, and a
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container with at least 1-gallon of water, or a fully charged 2.5 pound fire extinguisher.
5. Do not park your vehicle or operate an internal combustion engine (i.e. generator) in an area that is not clear of all flammable material.

6. Do not operate a motorized vehicle outside of existing roads and ways. This prohibits cross-country travel until this order is rescinded.

Dyer reminds people fire conditions are worse this year than last and fire activity has started much earlier than normal...a fact that concerns all public and private land managers. He asks citizens to please be sure to carry the necessary shovel, fire extinguisher, and a minimum 1 gallon container of water. Those simple items can make the difference between a small incident and a massive forest or range fire.

“With conditions as extreme as we are experiencing this early in the summer, public land managers are asking help in preventing, reporting and dealing with wild fires,” says Dyer.

People with questions on public use restrictions or on the restrictions related to the IFPL public order should call the 24 hour fire information number at 573-4555.

#####To report any wild fire call 573-1000#####

#####BLM#####