

# News Release

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## *For Immediate Release*

### **Fire Closure in Effect on BLM Lands in Washington State**

**Spokane** - A fire closure is being put into effect, starting 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 22, 2004, for all public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the state of Washington. The fire closure will be in effect until further notice.

This fire closure, pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) No. 9212.2, prohibits building, maintaining, attending or using a campfire, stove fire, or charcoal briquette fire on all BLM lands, including dispersed areas and all unimproved campgrounds. However, campfires are permissible in designated improved campgrounds with steel fire rings, such as those at Coffeepot, Pacific Lake, and Twin Lakes. Liquified and bottled gas stoves and heaters are also allowed, provided they are within designated campground or picnic areas.

In addition, the fire closure prohibits smoking while traveling in timber, brush or grass areas, except in vehicles on roads, on barren or cleared areas at least 3 feet in diameter, or in boats on rivers and lakes. Another prohibited activity is operating any type of motorized vehicle off developed roadways (those clear of flammable debris, berm to berm). Any vehicles being parked off roadways must be parked in areas barren of flammable materials.

Certain individuals are exempt from this fire closure order, pursuant to 43 CFR 9212.3(a). Those individuals include people with a permit that gives specific authorization for the otherwise prohibited act or omission, as well as federal, state, and local officers, or members of an organized rescue or firefighting force performing official duty.

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or to imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both.

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