

News Release

Umatilla National Forest

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visit us at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/

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PUBLIC-USE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON THE UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST

Restrictions on Campfires, Smoking, and Off-Road Travel Take Effect July 22, 2010

Pendleton, OR: Public-use restrictions on campfires, smoking and off-road travel will go into effect on the Umatilla National Forest at 12:01 AM on Thursday, July 22, 2010 announced Brian Goff, Fire Staff Officer. Restrictions are being implemented due to increased fire danger, hot and dry weather conditions, and concern for public safety.

“The fire danger has been steadily increasing and our forest fuels are ready to burn,” said Goff. “We need to reduce the threat of human caused fires by restricting activities that could start fires.”

Public awareness of the increasing fire danger and cooperation are essential to a safe fire season.

Under the current public-use restrictions, the following apply:

- Building and tending of open campfires, including charcoal briquettes, cooking fires and warming fires are prohibited until further notice, except in fire pits at designated recreation sites (*designated recreation sites are listed on page 3 of this release.*) Permissible sources for cooking or heat include pressurized gas BBQs, stoves and space-heating devices.
- Smoking is only allowed within enclosed vehicles, buildings, developed recreation sites or when stopped in an area cleared of all flammable material.
- Travel restrictions prohibit motor vehicles traveling off of developed Forest roads and trails, except for the purposes of going to or from campsites located within 300 feet of an open road. Motorized travel on segments of road where access is blocked by gate, barricade, log, boulder or earthen berm is also prohibited. Vehicles must abide by all laws and regulations pertaining to the area of travel as shown on the Forest’s Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM).

At this time firewood cutting is still allowed though land managers are anticipating the need for additional restrictions in the near future. Woodcutters are reminded to check daily for a change in restrictions. All forest users should carry an axe, shovel and an 8 oz. or more capacity fire extinguisher when visiting the Forest.

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For more information, please contact the Umatilla National Forest Office at (541) 278-3722. Public-use restrictions will be updated on the toll-free message line at 1-877-958-9663 and are also available online at: www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/.

“It’s late July and we’re moving into our hottest and driest part of the summer. The fire danger will only increase. Please help us keep the forests safe this summer by being aware of fire danger and current restrictions in effect,” said Goff.

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The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

PUBLIC USE & CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Campfires are ONLY allowed in the following designated recreation sites on the Umatilla National Forest. Even in these designated campsites, campers are cautioned to be extremely careful when using campfires!

North Fork John Day Ranger District:

- Bear Wallow Campground
- Olive Lake Campground
- North Fork John Day Campground
- Frazier Campground
- Lane Creek Campground
- Winom Creek Campground
- Fremont Cabins (metal or brick fire rings only)

Walla Walla Ranger District:

- Jubilee Lake Campground
- Woodland Campground
- Target Meadows Campground
- Mottet Campground
- Woodward Campground
- Approved Campfire Pits in the Spout Springs and Tollgate Summer Homes Tracts

Heppner Ranger District:

- Bull Prairie Campground

Pomeroy Ranger District:

- Boundary Campground
- Panjab Campground
- Tucannon Campground
- Godman Campground
- Big Springs Campground
- Teal Campground
- Misery Springs Campground
- Wickiup Campground
- Alder Thicket Campground
- Lady Bug Campground
- Pataha Campground
- Midway Campground
- Clearwater Cabin Rentals
- Godman Cabin Rental
- Wenatchee Cabin Rental
- Approved Campfire Pits in the Summer Homes Tracts