



**Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest**
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News Release

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The Malheur National Forest to Lift Public Use Restrictions and Reduce Industrial Fire Precaution Levels across the Forest

John Day and Prairie City, Ore. – Due to decreased fire danger, fire managers will lift all public use restrictions pertaining to campfires, chainsaw use, smoking, and off-road travel on the Malheur National Forest as of Friday, October 9, 2020, at 12:01 a.m. (PDT). Industrial Fire Precaution Level I (IFPL I) is being implemented and the fire danger level is Moderate across the forest.

A one-hour fire watch is always recommended after saw operations cease. Saw operators are required to have a shovel (8" wide, 26" length), and fire extinguisher (minimum AB 8 oz.) in their possession.

Campfires should be in fire pits surrounded by dirt, rock, or commercial rings, and in areas not conducive to rapid fire spread. Campfires should have a minimum clearance of 3 feet from the edge of the fire pit. Please use existing pits wherever possible. Campfires must be attended at all times, and completely extinguished prior to leaving.

Persons with campfires should have a tool such as a shovel and one gallon of water in their possession. The shovel and water can be used to extinguish the fire before leaving your campsite. Use the "drown, stir, feel" method to ensure your campfire is completely extinguished before leaving.

Campfires in designated wilderness areas should be located so minimal disturbance is necessary and to prevent fire spread. Naturally cleared areas, previously used sites, and areas where vegetation is non-flammable (green grass) are examples. Use of a folding shovel when backpacking will aid you in completely extinguishing your campfire.

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Please check with your local Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) office for any public use restrictions in effect on lands protected by them.

For more information about Industrial Fire Precaution Levels and Malheur National Forest Public Use Restrictions, please call 541-575-3000, or visit our website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur>

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