



**Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest
541-575-3000
www.fs.usda.gov/malheur**

News Release

Karen Roganov 541-575-3144
Shilo Burton 541-575-3008

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Public Use Restrictions lowered as wet weather moves through the area

JOHN DAY, OR – Malheur National Forest officials will implement **Phase A of the Public Use Restrictions (PURs)** and **Level II of the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL)** at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2015 forest-wide.

With cooler temperatures and wet weather expected to move across the area, the fire danger rating will also reduce to MODERATE.

Beginning Thursday, **campfires will be allowed in fire pits** surrounded by dirt, rock or a commercial fire ring and must be cleared of all flammable material within a 3 foot radius of the fire pit's edge. Portable cooking stoves and wood burning stoves equipped with a spark arresting screen are allowed.

If you intend to have a campfire you are reminded to carry a shovel or similar tool and one gallon of water, attend to you campfire at all times and extinguish it fully prior to leaving the area. For quick tips on safely building and extinguishing campfires, check out Smokey Bear's Campfire Safety tips at: <http://www.smokeybear.com/campfire-safety.asp>.

Chainsaw use during Phase A is limited to the hours of 8 p.m. to 1 p.m., with a one hour fire watch once completing operations. When operating your chainsaw you are required to have an axe, shovel and fire extinguisher in your possession.

Travel off-road/off-trail continues to be limited to roads cleared of standing grass or other flammable material as well as prohibited on Forest Service roads where access has been impeded or blocked by berms, logs, boulders, barricades or gates. Off-road/off-trail travel to access firewood is allowed per the conditions of a valid firewood permit.

The public is responsible for knowing if restrictions are in place and can obtain information through many avenues:

Call the Forest's offices or District offices at:

- Malheur National Forest Supervisors/Blue Mountain Ranger District Offices: 541-575-3000,
- Prairie City Ranger District: 541-820-3800,
- Emigrant Creek Ranger District: 541-573-4300.

For more information on the Malheur National Forest, please visit us at www.fs.usda.gov/malheur, follow U.S. Forest Service- Malheur National Forest on Facebook, and follow @MalheurNF on Twitter for all the latest forest news.

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