

NEWS Release

Bureau of Land Management • Forest Service

BLM Prineville District Office - 3050 NE Third Street - Prineville, Oregon 97754 - www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville
Deschutes National Forest – 63095 Deschutes Market Rd. – Bend, Oregon 97702 - www.fs/fed/us/r6/centraloregon
Ochoco National Forest – 3160 NE Third Street – Prineville, Oregon 97754 – www.fs/fed/us/r6/centraloregon

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FOREST SERVICE**
For release: August 21, 2012

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS BEGIN IN CENTRAL OREGON TODAY

Central Oregon – After a weekend of human-caused fires, officials want to remind people that public use restrictions are now in effect on lands managed by the Prineville District Bureau of Land Management, the Ochoco National Forest and the Crooked River National Grassland. Effective 12:01 a.m. August 21 (Tuesday), open fires, including charcoal fires, **will be prohibited**, except in the following designated campgrounds:

Ochoco National Forest: Barnhouse, Cottonwood Pit, Salter’s Cabin, Sugar Creek, Wolf Creek, Antelope Reservoir, Wildcat, Walton Lake, Deep Creek, Ochoco Forest Camp, and Ochoco Divide.

Prineville BLM: Castle Rock, Still Water, Lone Pine, Palisades, Chimney Rock, Cobble Rock, Post Pile, and Poison Butte.

In addition to campfire restrictions, smoking is restricted to an enclosed vehicle or building, in boats on lakes and rivers, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is clear of all flammable material.

Portable cooking stoves or lanterns using liquefied or bottled fuel may be used in all areas.

The Mayfield Pond Fire was started Sunday afternoon by the use of Tannerite on BLM lands near along Alfalfa Market Road. Officials want to remind the public that using explosive material, such as Tannerite, and explosive targets for recreational shooting is prohibited during the entire fire season on Prineville District BLM lands. The use of exploding targets, Tannerite and other responsive targets is also prohibited on the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland for the duration of these fire restrictions. In all cases, *when legally allowed*, recreational shooters should bring their own targets, avoid damaging public resources and vegetation, and remove all target and shooting debris when they leave.

The Evans Well fire was another human-caused fire that started this past weekend; igniting when a vehicle parked over dry vegetation. Although no roads are closed with these fire use restrictions (all current travel management regulations for the BLM and Forest Service remain in place), officials also want to remind people about the danger of driving or parking on vegetation. In light brush and grass, the hot undercarriage of a vehicle can quickly ignite a wildfire, threatening the safety of the driver and any passengers, as well as damaging or destroying the vehicle itself.



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Public use restrictions are not put in place to ruin camping experiences. Officials carefully consider the current fire situation, fuel moisture and predicted weather before making the decision to implement fire restrictions. Every year lightning-caused fires already place a heavy demand on our firefighting resources, and put our wildlands, our firefighters, and our communities at risk. Fires caused through carelessness or negligence only increase the threat to life and livelihood, and place an even greater burden on already busy firefighters. Every fire that's prevented protects our communities and helps our firefighters remain available, rested, and safe.

About the BLM: The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

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