Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests, and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management Office of Communications

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon
www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon
www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/index.php

For immediate release: October 8, 2008 Contact: Virginia Gibbons 541-416-6647

PUBLIC USE RESTRICTIONS LIFTED ON EASTERN PORTION OF PRINEVILLE DISTRICT BLM; INDUSTRIAL FIRE PRECAUTION LEVEL 1 ACROSS CENTRAL OREGON; SOME RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR RIVER CORRIDORS

CENTRAL OREGON – Recent precipitation and the return to fall weather conditions has prompted the lifting of public use restrictions on Prineville BLM lands in Grant County, and within the John Day River corridor, as well as adjusting the Industrial Fire Precaution to a Level 1 on the Deschutes National Forest, Ochoco National Forest and the Prineville District Bureau of Land Management administered lands. Public use restrictions remain in effect on the Crooked, Deschutes and White Rivers and Lake Billy Chinook through October 15, 2008.

Visitors, campers and hunters are reminded to continue to be fire safe with campfires, smoking and other activities on public lands during the fall season. Although fire danger is reduced, some areas may dry out quickly with changes in the weather. There is still a chance of fires escaping, particularly if campfires are left unattended or are improperly extinguished.

Remember to carry a shovel and water on outings and use dirt and water to douse and stir the campfire to put it out. A good test is to place the back of the hand over the campfire area after applying dirt and water and stirring repeatedly. No heat should be felt; if warmth is still present, continue to douse and stir until cold.

For additional information on river corridor public use restrictions, visit www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/index.php or call the fire information line at 1-800-523-4737.