

# News Release

## **Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests**

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### **PUBLIC-USE RESTRICTIONS EASED Woodcutting, Generator and Internal Combustion Engine Restrictions Lifted Campfire, Smoking and Off-Road Travel Restrictions Remain in Effect**

Due to recent changes in the weather, public-use restrictions have been modified to allow the use of chainsaws, generators and other internal combustion engines on the Umatilla National Forest and on most of the Malheur National Forest. The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest lifted similar restrictions last week.

Firewood cutting is now allowed on all three Blue Mountain National Forests (Umatilla, Malheur and Wallowa-Whitman) with the exception of the Emigrant Creek Ranger District on the Malheur National Forest. Because of the high fire danger and lack of precipitation in this area, firewood cutting remains prohibited on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District.

Woodcutters can help minimize the risk of wildfire by following the conditions of their permit which include having the required firefighting tools with them and remaining on-site for a 1-hour fire watch after shutting down their chainsaws.

Campfire, smoking and off-road travel restrictions remain in effect on all three national forests for the time being. Current public-use restrictions prohibit the building and tending of open campfires, including charcoal briquettes, cooking fires and warming fires until further notice, except in fire pits at designated recreation sites. For a list of designated recreation sites, please contact the forest or visit the forest service websites. Permissible sources of heat include pressurized gas 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. Vehicles must still abide by all laws and regulations pertaining to the area of travel.

A regulated closure remains in effect for all lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

For more information on public-use restrictions, please contact any Malheur, Umatilla or Wallowa-Whitman National Forest office or visit us online at:

Malheur National Forest – (541) 575-3000, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur/)  
Umatilla National Forest – (541) 278-3716, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/)  
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest – (541) 523-1234, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w/)