

# News Release

## Umatilla National Forest

2517 SW Hailey Avenue

Pendleton, OR 97801

visit us at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/)

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News Contact: Joani Bosworth (541) 278-3722

July 23, 2008

### **PUBLIC-USE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON THE UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST**

#### **Restrictions on Campfires, Smoking, and Off-Road Travel Take Effect July 24, 2008**

**Pendleton, OR:** Public-use restrictions on campfires, smoking and off-road travel will go into effect on the Umatilla National Forest at 12:01 AM, July 24, 2008 announced Bill Aney, Fire and Aviation Staff Officer. Restrictions are being implemented due to increased fire danger, hot and dry weather conditions, and concern for public safety.

“The fire danger is steadily increasing and our forest fuels are ready to burn,” said Aney. “We need to reduce the threat of human caused fires by restricting activities that could start fires.” Although lightning storms ignite the majority of wildfires, it’s the human caused fires that can give land managers the most trouble. “Human-caused fires are unpredictable,” said Aney. “They can start anywhere and at any time. Lightning strikes, however, can be detected and mapped, allowing us to dispatch firefighting resources where needed. So far, we’ve been lucky and not had the lightning activity that other Forests are experiencing.”

Under the current public-use restrictions, the following apply:

- Building and tending of open campfires, including charcoal briquettes, cooking fires and warming fires are prohibited until further notice, except in fire pits at designated recreation sites (designated recreation sites are listed on page 3 of this release). Permissible sources for cooking or heat include pressurized gas BBQs, 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. Motorized travel on segments of road where access is blocked by gate, barricade, log, boulder or earthen berm is also prohibited. Vehicles must still abide by all laws and regulations pertaining to the area of travel.

## Public-Use Restrictions – page 2

Forest managers are anticipating the need for additional restrictions as early as next week. “It’s late July and we’re moving into our hottest and driest part of the summer,” said Aney. “The fire danger will only increase.”

At this time, firewood cutting is still allowed. However, woodcutters are reminded to check daily for a change in restrictions. All forest users should carry an axe, shovel and an 8 oz. or more capacity fire extinguisher when visiting the Forest.

If unsure of which restrictions apply, please contact the Umatilla National Forest Office at (541) 278-3722. Public-use restrictions will be updated on the toll-free message line at 1-877-958-9663 and are also available online at: [www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/).

As a reminder, fire season is also in effect on all private lands protected by ODF in Northeast Oregon. Specific information on ODF’s restrictions is available on the web at: [www.odf.state.or.us/areas/eastern/northeast/default.asp](http://www.odf.state.or.us/areas/eastern/northeast/default.asp). Similar restrictions may be in effect on lands protected by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. “Please help us keep the forests safe this summer by being aware of fire danger and the ways that people accidentally start fires,” said Aney.

-USFS-

**PUBLIC USE & CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS**

Campers are cautioned to be extremely careful when using fires ONLY in the following designated recreation sites on the Umatilla National Forest:

**North Fork John Day Ranger District:**

- Bear Wallow Campground
- Olive Lake Campground
- North Fork John Day Campground
- Frazier Campground
- Lane Creek Campground
- Winom Creek Campground

**Walla Walla Ranger District:**

- Jubilee Lake Campground
- Woodland Campground
- Target Meadows Campground
- Mottet Campground
- Woodward Campground
- Approved Campfire Pits in the Spout Springs and Tollgate Summer Homes Tract

**Heppner Ranger District:**

- Bull Prairie Campground

**Pomeroy Ranger District:**

- Boundary Campground
- Panjab Campground
- Tucannon Campground
- Godman Campground
- Big Springs Campground
- Teal Campground
- Misery Springs Campground
- Wickiup Campground
- Alder Thicket Campground
- Lady Bug Campground
- Pataha Campground
- Midway Campground
- Clearwater Cabin Rentals
- Godman Cabin Rental
- Approved Campfire Pits at Summer Homes