

Forest Service - Oregon Department of Forestry

# News

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**Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, P.O. Box 907, Baker City, OR 97814**

**News contact: Judy Wing (541) 523-1246**

**Umatilla National Forest, 2517 S.W. Hailey Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801**

**News contact: Joani Bosworth (541) 278-3716**

**Oregon Department of Forestry, 611 20<sup>th</sup> St. La Grande, OR 97850**

**News contact: Angie Johnson (541) 963-3168**

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## **PUBLIC USE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE**

**Baker City, OR.** In anticipation of Labor Day Weekend, the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forest, and Oregon Department of Forestry have decided to keep current public use restrictions in place in spite of recent rain and cooler temperatures. On Monday, the largest amount of rain recorded locally was ½ inch at Aneroid Lake, in the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

Dennis Winkler, acting Fire Management Officer for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest noted that although recent moisture helped fire conditions earlier this week, warming and drying weather is expected into the weekend.

“Forest conditions continue to be dry at lower elevations. With many families camping and picnicking this Labor Day Weekend, the threat of human caused fires increases,” Winkler said. “We ask recreationists for their cooperation complying with fire restrictions and to be extra careful when building a campfire at those designated recreation sites.”

Public-use restrictions prohibit building, maintaining, tending or using a fire, campfire, and wood stove and briquette fires outside of designated recreation sites. The list of designated recreation sites is located on the Forest websites at:

Wallowa-Whitman N.F.: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w/recreation/recsites/index.shtml>.

Umatilla N.F.: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/fire/fireupdate.shtml#DRS>

Liquefied and bottle gas stoves and heaters may be used for cooking and heating.

Smoking is only allowed within enclosed vehicles, buildings, developed recreation sites, or while stopped in an area cleared of all flammable material.

Travel restrictions prohibit motor vehicles traveling off developed Forest roads and trails except for the purpose of going to and from a campsite located within 300 feet of the adjacent open developed road. Motorized travel on segments of road where access is blocked by gate, barricade, log, boulder or earthen berm is also prohibited.

At this time there are no restrictions on firewood cutting. Woodcutters can help minimize the risk of wildfire by following the conditions of their permit, which include having the required tools with them and remaining on-site for a one-hour fire watch after shutting down their chainsaws.

A regulated closure on private land protected by Oregon Department of Forestry in northeast Oregon remains in effect. Complete information on ODF's regulated closure 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) or at their nearest office.

For more information on restrictions applicable to the area, people are asked to check with local Forest Service offices or visit the Forests' websites at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w) or <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/>

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