

# News Release

## Forest Service – Oregon Department of Forestry

### News Contacts:

Umatilla National Forest: Joani Bosworth (541) 278-3716

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest: Judy Wing (541) 523-1246

Oregon Department of Forestry: Angie Johnson (541) 963-3168

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### **Campfire, Smoking and Motorized Travel Restrictions Lifted on the Umatilla National Forest. Similar Restrictions Remain in Effect on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and Lands Protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry**

**Pendleton, OR:** “Public-use restrictions involving the use of campfires, smoking and motorized travel on the Umatilla National Forest have been lifted,” announced Bill Aney, Fire and Aviation Staff Officer. However, similar restrictions on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and Lands Protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) will remain in effect.

“Though cooler temperatures and moisture have eased the need for public-use restrictions on the Umatilla National Forest, we are still in fire season and can have wildfires,” said Aney. Hunters, firewood cutters and other forest visitors are reminded to never leave a fire unattended and to make sure their campfires, warming fires, cooking fires and wood stove fires are dead-out before leaving the site. “Every year, we have warming fires that are not completely extinguished,” said Aney. “Those fires can pop up, sometimes days later, as a wildfire that our fire crews need to fight.”

Public-use restrictions prohibiting the building, maintaining, tending or using a fire, campfire, and wood stove and briquette fires outside of designated recreation sites will remain in effect on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest for the time being, according to Matt Reidy, Fire and Aviation Staff Officer. The list of designated recreation sites is located on the Wallowa-Whitman websites at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w/recreation/recsites/index.shtml>.

A regulated closure on private land protected by the ODF in northeast Oregon also remains in effect. “At this point in time, we believe the fire danger in the lower elevation private lands still warrants the need for public-use restrictions,” said David King, Unit Forest for ODF’s Pendleton Unit. “Because fuels are dry and the level of public activity in the forested areas remains high, we believe it’s in the best interest of the private landowners to continue to regulate open burning. Requests for burn permits on private land will be considered on a case by case basis,” said King.

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For more information on restrictions applicable to the area you plan to visit, please check with your local ODF or Forest Service office or visit their websites at:

- ODF's regulated closure: [www.odf.state.or.us/areas/eastern/northeast/default.asp](http://www.odf.state.or.us/areas/eastern/northeast/default.asp).
- Umatilla National Forest: [www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/)
- Wallowa-Whitman National Forest: [www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w/)

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