

July 14, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Weather Watch in Effect through Wednesday as Fire Danger on ODF Protected Lands Enters Extreme Conditions

Prineville, OR ~ Current weather patterns continue to support low relative humidity and breezy conditions has prompted a Fire Weather Watch for most of Central Oregon and Red Flag Warning for the east slopes of the north cascades for Monday through Wednesday. Continued drying of forest vegetation and fuels has elevated fire danger indices into the extreme status on Oregon Department of Forestry protected lands within Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties.

As we approach the peak of central Oregon's fire season, the Oregon Department of Forestry is requesting the public's continued assistance in supporting our fire prevention effort. July is a prime time for recreation in central Oregon and both residents and recreationists need to remain aware of the increasing fire danger while conducting their activities in the forest. Once a fire becomes established, the potential for the development of a large wildfire can rapidly escalate. Adherence with Regulated Use Restrictions can significantly reduce the amount of human caused fires experienced within Central Oregon. Regulated Use Restrictions for lands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry's Central Oregon District remain in effect and are posted along major roads entering ODF protected lands.

To get information on these and other fire prevention restrictions within Central Oregon's Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook counties please contact:

For **private lands** call:

Oregon Department of Forestry Prineville Office - 447-5658

Oregon Department of Forestry Sisters Office – 549-2731

or go to: <http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/PVL/aboutus.shtml>

For **public lands** call:

Crooked River National Grassland - 416-6640

Deschutes National Forest - 383-5300

Ochoco National Forest - 416-6500

or go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/>

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