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Increased fire restrictions in place on public land

VALE, Oregon – Increased fire restrictions are in place within the Bureau of Land Management's Vale District in southeastern Oregon effective midnight tonight. Recent lightning activity has resulted in a rash of fires throughout eastern Oregon and western Idaho. Fire conditions are extreme and weather predictions indicate additional storm cells are likely.

Balancing local, regional and national firefighting resources is a critical challenge at this time. To maximize its ability to respond to additional wildland fires with the limited fire suppression resources available, the District has adopted more restrictive regulations for use of public lands. These orders will be in effect for all BLM managed public lands within the Vale District until rescinded in writing:

- You must not ignite or possess any fireworks.
- You must not build, maintain or attend campfires. Open fires are prohibited including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires except within the existing metal fire rings located at the following Recreation sites, Westfall, Airstrip, Bob Creek and Carters Landing, in Baker County or Chukar Park in Malheur County. NOTE: Liquefied and bottled gas stoves and heaters are permitted in the designated campgrounds listed above.
- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water, or at a cleared area. A cleared area is barren of all flammable materials of at least a 3 foot diameter.
- Use of all motorized vehicles are prohibited, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, except on improved roads maintained and clear of flammable material. This prohibits cross-country travel until this order is rescinded. You must not operate a motorized vehicle upon public lands without the following fire fighting equipment, one shovel not less than 26" in overall length, with a blade not less than 8" wide, and a container with at least one gallon of water, or a fully charged 2.5 pound fire extinguisher.
- You must not park your vehicle or operate any type of internal combustion engine (generators, chainsaw, weed eaters etc.) in an area that is not clear of all flammable material. Electrical generators can be operated under the following conditions: In the center of an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material, or when fully contained within a pickup truck bed that is devoid of all flammable material, or when factory installed in a recreational vehicle and the generator exhaust discharge is located in the center of an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
- As of 00:01, on Thursday, August 24, 2006 the Industrial Fire Precaution Level will change to Level IV. At this level all industrial operations on the Vale District are prohibited.

A copy of current fire restrictions and a map of the Vale District can be found at www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale. For more information on restrictions with in the Vale District BLM, please contact 541-473-3144. To report a wildfire, please call 911.

