

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OR-030-2006-030
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2 P.M.**

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, VALE DISTRICT OFFICE, 100 OREGON STREET, VALE, OREGON 97918

Stemler Ridge Fire contained

VALE, Oregon – The Stemler Ridge Fire, which briefly impeded traffic on Highway 20 Wednesday morning due to smoke, has been contained. According to Incident Commander Todd Gregory, the 2,052-acre range fire was reported contained just before 1 p.m. today.

Limited fire crews remain on scene, located between Juntura and Jonesboro, west of Ontario.

The Stemler Ridge fire was reported at approximately 9 p.m. Tuesday night, and BLM's Vale District firefighting crews arrived on scene within 45 minutes. Vale District engine crews were augmented with Snake River Valley firefighters as well as contract firefighting crews from the Snake River Correctional Institution.

The fire is presumed to be lightning caused. It started at the top of the ridge, and there were several lightning strikes reported in the area that evening. "It's just too early in the season to be seeing this type of fire behavior," said Gregory, who expressed concern over the outlook for the next few days and advised caution.

For additional information, please contact Debbie Lyons at (541) 473-6218.

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