

# Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management Office of Communications

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News and Information  
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Contacts: Sue Olson  
(541) 383-5561

## PUBLIC USE RESTRICTIONS LIFTED ON CENTRAL OREGON PUBLIC LANDS.

### RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR RIVER CORRIDORS AND LAKE BILLY CHINOOK

### INDUSTRIAL FIRE PRECAUTION LEVEL II NOW IN EFFECT

CENTRAL OREGON-Effective immediately with recent increases in weather moisture levels, **Public Use Restrictions on campfires, smoking and vehicle use are lifted for the Ochoco National Forest, Crooked River National Grassland and Prineville District Bureau of Land Management (BLM).**

**Restrictions for public lands adjacent to Lake Billy Chinook and several river recreation corridors remain in effect (see below).**

In addition, the Ochoco National Forest, Crooked River Grassland, Deschutes National Forest and Prineville BLM will be at Industrial Fire Precaution (IFPL) II.

Many people refer to the IFPL Level II regulations as "partial hoot owl" because chainsaw, cable yarding, blasting, welding and metal-cutting operations can only occur from 8 p.m. to 1 p.m. the following day. The regulations affect both commercial and personal use firewood cutters, and industrial operators. Federal officials ordered the restrictions after weather observations and moisture readings in woody material showed a temporary decrease in fire danger. The public is advised to check local restrictions before visiting public or private lands. Current fire restrictions can be found by checking agency websites, speaking to campground hosts, reading posted signs and calling recorded messages. To check Industrial Fire Precaution Levels and Public Use Restrictions for Central Oregon call the 24-hour Fire Use Line at 1-800-523-4737 or log onto: [www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/fire](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/fire). Fire managers urge people who visit public lands to be extremely careful with outdoor activities involving campfires, lanterns, charcoal briquettes, chainsaws and recreational vehicles. People who start wildland fires can be fined, jailed and billed for suppression costs.

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**Restrictions for public lands adjacent to Lake Billy Chinook and several river recreation corridors remain in effect.**

Closure orders went into effect at 12:01 a.m. on June 1, 2007, and last through October 15, 2007, for all of the rivers indicated below, with the exception of the John Day River closure, which lasts through October 1, 2007. The following fire closures will be in effect on public lands within Wild and Scenic River corridor boundaries and public lands in other areas as described below:

Lower Crooked River

Within ½ mile of the river's edge along the Lower Crooked River from the Highway 97 bridge to Lake Billy Chinook.

Deschutes River

Within ½ mile of the river's edge along the Middle Deschutes River from Highway 20 to Lake Billy Chinook; within ½ mile of Lake Simustus (between Round Butte Dam and Pelton Dam); within the Lower Deschutes National Wild and Scenic River corridor (Pelton Dam to the Columbia River).

White River

Within ½ mile of the river's edge from its confluence with the Deschutes River upstream to the eastern boundary of the Mount Hood National Forest.

Lake Billy Chinook

Those public lands located within ½ mile of Lake Billy Chinook.

John Day River

On public lands within ¼ mile of the river's edge in the following locations:

The main stem John Day River, from Tumwater Falls (River Mile 10) upstream to Kimberly (river mile 185).

The North Fork John Day River, from the confluence with the main stem at Kimberly (River Mile 0) upstream to the Umatilla National Forest boundary (river mile 62).

The South Fork John Day River from Smokey Creek (river mile 6) upstream to the Malheur National Forest boundary (river mile 47).

**PROHIBITED ACTS FOR ALL CLOSURE AREAS DESCRIBED ABOVE:**

1. Building, igniting, maintaining, attending, using, or being within 20 feet of a campfire, charcoal fire, or any other type of open flame. This includes portable propane campfires and wood pellet burning devices. *Exception:* You may use commercially manufactured metal camp stoves and shielded lanterns when fueled with bottle propane or liquid fuel and operated in a responsible manner.
2. Smoking except while in non-public buildings, within a closed vehicle, or in a

boat floating on the water or standing in the water.

Except in emergency conditions or permission by an agency-authorized officer, there are no exceptions to this closure. A violation of this closure is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both.