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Know Before You Go

Fire Restrictions a “moving target” as hunting season approaches

VALE, Oregon – With the advent of cooler weather, fire restrictions are easing throughout the region. “That doesn’t mean we’re out of the woods yet,” said Mike Hartwell, the Bureau of Land Management’s Vale District Fire Management Officer.

The Vale District extends from forested areas near the Washington border to an area of lighter, grassy fuels near the Nevada border. Winds, pockets of less precipitation, and uncertainty about fall weather contribute to the need to remain cautious. Effective at midnight tonight, there will be fewer restrictions in place on BLM lands within the Vale District. As additional information is gathered, and the fall season unfolds, changes in restrictions will be announced.

Before traveling on your public lands, be sure you have the most up-to-date information on the restrictions that are in place for the area you are visiting. Although there is an effort made to coordinate among agencies, some differences may exist. Current fire restrictions applicable to the Vale District are posted on bulletin boards at recreation sites and campgrounds throughout the district, are posted on the web site at www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale, and can be obtained by calling the Vale District Office at (541) 473-3144 or the Baker Field Office at (541) 523-1965.

Current restrictions for the Vale District include:

1. You must not build, maintain or attend a campfire, or stove fire, including charcoal briquette fire, except within the existing metal fire rings located at the following recreation sites: Westfall, Airstrip, Spring, Bob Creek and Carters Landing, in Baker County or Slocum Creek, Chukar Park, Riverside, Antelope, Cow Lakes, and Oasis in Malheur County. Any metal fire ring that is used must be cleared of all flammable material within 5 feet of the outside ring. Liquefied and bottled gas stoves and heaters are permitted. When used outside of developed recreation sites they must be used within an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren, or clear of all flammable materials.
2. You must not operate a motorized vehicle upon public lands without, 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. Motorized vehicles include ATVs and Motorcycles.
3. You must not ignite or possess any fireworks.

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