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For Immediate Release
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Contact: Scott Boyd (509) 536-1200
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Fire Closure in Effect on BLM Lands in Washington State

Spokane— A fire closure is being put into effect, starting 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 8, 2006, for public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the state of Washington for the following counties: **Lincoln, Grant, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Yakima, Franklin, Klickitat, Benton, Whitman, Adams, Spokane and Asotin.** It will be in effect until further notice.

This fire closure, pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) No. 9212.2, prohibits building, maintaining, attending or using a campfire, stove fire, or charcoal briquette fire on all BLM lands, including dispersed areas and all unimproved campgrounds. However, campfires are permissible in designated improved campgrounds with steel fire rings. Liquified and bottled gas stoves and heaters are also allowed, provided they are within designated campground or picnic areas.

In addition, the fire closure prohibits smoking while traveling in timber, brush or grass areas, except in vehicles on roads, on barren or cleared areas at least 3 feet in diameter, or in boats on rivers and lakes. Another prohibited activity is operating any type of motorized vehicle off developed roadways (those clear of flammable debris, berm to berm). Any vehicles being parked off roadways must be parked in areas barren of flammable materials.

Certain individuals are exempt from this fire closure order, pursuant to 43 CFR 9212.3(a). Those individuals include people with a permit that gives specific authorization for the otherwise prohibited act or omission, as well as federal, state, and local officers, or members of an organized rescue or firefighting force performing official duty.

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or to imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both.

The BLM manages more land – 261 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

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