

For Immediate Release
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Fire Closure on BLM Lands in Eastern Washington

Spokane – Due to persistent hot and dry conditions, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued a fire closure order for BLM lands in Eastern Washington, effective July 12, 2007. The closure prohibits activities which could start wildfires and applies to BLM lands in the following counties: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima. The order also closes the Towell Falls Road at Escure Ranch in Whitman County.

The closure specifically prohibits the following:

- **Operating any type of motorized vehicle off developed roadways. Developed roadways are those that are clear of flammable debris, berm to berm. Parking of vehicles off roadways must be done in an area barren of flammable materials.**
- **Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire, including charcoal briquette fire.**

NOTE: Liquefied and bottled gas stoves and heaters are permitted provided they are used within an area that is barren or cleared of all flammable material for at least 10 feet in diameter. Fires within steel rings are permitted only at the Yakima River Canyon, Coffeepot, and Twin Lakes campgrounds. No fires are allowed at Liberty, Chopaka, Washburn or Pacific Lake sites.

- **Smoking while traveling in timber, brush or grass areas, except in vehicles on roads, or cleared areas at least three feet in diameter, or on boats on rivers and or lakes.**

In accordance with Federal Regulations, the following persons are exempt from this order:

- **Persons with a permit that specifically authorized the otherwise prohibited act or omission.**
- **Any federal, state or local officer or a member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.**

Federal Regulations prohibit use of fireworks on BLM lands.

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

For more information contact the BLM Spokane District Office at (509) 536-1200.

