



United States Department of Agriculture



Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
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NEWS RELEASE

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September 25, 2020

As fire weather conditions improve, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest reduces Public Use Restrictions to Phase B

BAKER CITY, Ore. – Effective today, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has reduced Public Use Restrictions from Phase C to Phase B, which will permit campfires in wilderness and established fire pits in developed recreation areas. Forest fire managers impose restrictions on forest visitors only as necessary. While the threat of wildfire is still present, weather and fuels conditions have improved enough to reduce the probability of a major fire.

Phase B is the second level of wildfire-prevention restrictions, generally implemented when the fire danger is high. PURs are phased in as conditions warrant and may differ from forest to forest. Restrictions under Phase B include:

- Campfires, wood stoves, or briquet fires are prohibited except within designated wilderness areas (outside Lakes Basin closure) or established fire pits in developed recreation areas. Liquid or bottle gas stoves may be used.
- The use of chainsaws or other non-vehicle internal combustion engines is prohibited. (Chainsaw operation associated with commercial and personal-use firewood permits are regulated under the conditions of the permit and are not impacted by this PUR.) Generators are permitted only when contained in the bed of a pickup truck or in an area cleared of all flammable materials within 10 feet.
- Smoking is allowed only in enclosed vehicles, buildings, or cleared areas.
- Vehicle travel is allowed only on roads and trails that are clear of standing grass or other flammable material. Off-road or off-trail vehicle travel is not allowed, nor is vehicle travel on National Forest roads where access has been impeded or blocked by earthen berm, logs, boulders, barrier, barricade, or gate, or as otherwise identified in a Fire Order.

Forest visitors are urged to continue using great caution with any source of ignition and should be prepared to fight any campfire they ignite. Campfires must be attended at all times and be completely extinguished and

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cold prior to leaving. Ensure that you have at least one gallon of water and a shovel or similar tool before starting any campfire.

The public's awareness of the risk of wildfire and cooperation is essential to a safe fire season. Recreationists, firewood cutters, hunters, and other forest users can all help by closely adhering to restrictions, operating safely and cautiously, and keeping up-to-date on the latest orders and regulations.

Regulated closures may be in effect on State and private lands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in northeast Oregon. For more information, contact your local ODF office or visit the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center website at <http://www.bmidc.org>.

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