



Pacific Northwest Region
Umatilla National Forest
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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Darcy Weseman (541) 278-3722

August 27, 2018

Public Use Restrictions eased on the Umatilla National Forest

PENDLETON, Ore. – Public use restrictions (PURs) on the Umatilla National Forest will drop to PHASE A as of 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018. The Seasonal Campfire Restrictions will also be in effect as part of Phase A of the PURs. Fire managers have eased the public use restrictions due to cooler weather conditions and a decrease in fire danger.

Phase A is the second level of restrictions, generally implemented when the fire danger is moderate to high. PURS are phased in collectively, as conditions warrant, and may differ from Forest to Forest. These restrictions include:

- Chainsaws may be operated only between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. local time. A one hour fire watch is required after saw operations cease. Saw operators are required to have an axe (minimum 2 lb. head, 26" length), shovel (8" wide, 26" length), and fire extinguisher (minimum ABC 8 oz.) in their possession. **Chainsaw operation associated with commercial and personal use firewood permits are regulated under the conditions of the permit and are not impacted by this public use restriction.
- Smoking is allowed only in enclosed vehicles, buildings or cleared areas.
- No off-road/off-trail vehicle travel or travel on roads not cleared of standing grass or other flammable material; no vehicle travel on those FS roads where access has been impeded or blocked by earthen berm, logs, boulders, barrier, barricade or gate, or as otherwise identified in the Fire Order.
- Seasonal campfire restrictions and requirements described for June 1- October 31 apply.
 - Campfires allowed only in fire pits surrounded by dirt, rock, or commercial rings and in areas not conducive to rapid fire spread. All flammable material shall be cleared within a 3-foot radius from the edge of the pit and free of overhanging material. Use existing pits wherever possible.

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- Campfires must be attended at all times, and completely extinguished prior to leaving.
- Persons with campfires are required to have a tool that can serve as a shovel and one gallon of water in their possession. The intent of this requirement is to ensure individuals with a campfire to have the tools necessary to completely extinguish their campfire.
- Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled gas and wood burning stoves equipped with a chimney that is at least five (5) feet in length with a spark-arresting screen consisting of ¼ inch mesh hardware cloth are allowed.
- Use of charcoal briquettes is permitted under the same restrictions as campfires described above.

The public's awareness of the fire danger 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 are in effect on State and private lands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in northeast and central Oregon. Please check with your local Oregon Department of Forestry office for public use restrictions on lands protected by ODF. For more complete information contact a local Oregon Department of Forestry office or visit one of the interagency dispatch center's webpages:

- John Day Interagency Dispatch webpage: <http://bicc-jdidc.org/index.shtml>
- Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch webpage: www.bmidc.org

Similar restrictions may be in effect on State and private lands protected by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA-DNR). More information can be found on the WA-DNR website at: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/>

For more information regarding Phase A Public Use Restrictions, please contact:

Umatilla National Forest:

Information Hotline: Toll-Free (877) 958-9663

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