



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Forestry

Northeast Oregon District

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July 16, 2026

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Stewardship in
Forestry"

Oregon Department of Forestry officials increase public use restrictions from high to extreme

La Grande, OR – The Oregon Department of Forestry's Northeast Oregon District (ODF) is responding to changing weather conditions and their increasing impact on fire safety across the region.

Recent weather patterns have brought significantly higher temperatures, combined with ongoing fire activity across the district, making it necessary to implement enhanced public use restrictions on lands protected by ODF.

Fire managers' seasonal fire severity measurements indicate that fire danger has reached extreme levels throughout the region. With fuels continuing to dry, fires can ignite easily and spread rapidly.

"We are seeing extreme fire conditions across the district, and it doesn't take long for a fire to ignite and spread in these dry fuels," said District Forester Justin Lauer. "We must consider every available option to reduce the number of preventable human-caused fires."

Effective at 12:01 A.M. July 17, 2026, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has added additional restrictions to the Public Use Restrictions for lands within the Northeast Oregon District. This declaration places fire prevention restrictions on landowners and the public. The Regulated Use Closure affects private, state, county, municipal, and tribal lands in seven counties: Union, Baker, Wallowa, Umatilla, and small portions of Malheur, Grant, and Morrow Counties.

The Public Use Restrictions (Extreme Fire Danger) include the following fire prevention measures:

- Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires, and warming fires.
 - Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed.
 - Propane fire pits are allowed if they are self-contained and 3 feet away from any flammable fuels with a maximum flame height of 2 feet.
- Non-industrial chainsaw use is prohibited.
 - Electric Chainsaws are allowed all day.
- Mowing of dried and cured grass with power driven equipment is prohibited, except for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.
 - Electric string trimmers are allowed all day.
- Any electric fence controller in use shall be: 1) Listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory or be certified by the Department of Consumer and Business Services; and 2) Operated in compliance with manufacturer's instructions.
- Possession of the following firefighting equipment is required for any vehicle/UTV/ATV traveling on unimproved roadways where flammable vegetation exists on the roadway; shovel or other firefighting tool, minimum of 1-gallon of water, or 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher.

PROHIBITED

- All open debris burning including the use of burn barrels.
- Use of fireworks.
- Use of exploding targets.
- Cutting, grinding, and welding of metal.
- Use of tracer ammunition or any bullet with a pyrotechnic charge in its base.
- Smoking while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water, or at a cleared area free of flammable vegetation.
- Use of sky lanterns throughout the year in Oregon.

For further information, contact the Oregon Department of Forestry at these local offices:

La Grande Unit	(541) 963-3168
Baker City Sub-Unit	(541) 523-5831
Wallowa Unit	(541) 886-2881
Pendleton Unit	(541) 276-3491

Protected lands in northeast Oregon, 2026 for current restriction information call 541-975-3027 or visit www.bmidc.org or QR code.



<http://bluemountainfireinfo.blogspot.com/> is your spot for current fire information in the Blue Mountains.
Find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/oregondeptofforestryNEO/>

Call Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch at (541)963-7171 or dial 9-1-1 to report a fire.