



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Forestry

Northeast Oregon District

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Stewardship in  
Forestry"

### Oregon Department of Forestry begins fire season in Northeast Oregon District

La Grande, OR- While Spring 2022 has brought more precipitation than the previous few years, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is seeing vegetation drying occurring across the Northeast Oregon District. Fuel conditions are changing rapidly as the summer weather pattern sets in. This change in weather conditions has prompted ODF to begin fire season on private forest lands in **northeast Oregon**.

FIRE SEASON will begin at 12:01 a.m., Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> for forest and range lands protected by ODF Northeast Oregon District. "We've seen a little reprieve this spring and early summer. Fire Season has been announced in June for the past few years, so it's been good to have some delay this year." Said Matt Howard, District Forester.

The fire season declaration places fire prevention restrictions on landowners and public. Additionally, fire prevention regulations on industrial logging and forest management activities are put into place. Lands affected include private, state, county, municipal, and tribal lands in Union, Baker, Wallowa, and Umatilla counties along with small portions of Malheur, Morrow, and Grant counties within the Northeast Oregon Forest Protection District. This area encompasses approximately 2 million acres of protected lands.

Howard states "Those spring storms have provided some much-needed moisture. However, this moisture has caused a lot of growth in our fine fuels, such as grasses, small brush, and shrubs. These are often our carrier fuels and are more susceptible to quickly drying and becoming ready-to-burn faster."

During Fire Season:

- **Debris burning is by permit only.** To obtain a burn permit for a debris pile or burn barrel, please call your local ODF office.
  - Baker City Sub-Unit: (541) 523-5831
  - La Grande Unit: (541) 963-3168
  - Pendleton Unit: (541) 276-3491
  - Wallowa Unit: (541) 886-2881
- The use of exploding targets, tracer ammunition, or any bullet with a pyrotechnic charge in its base is prohibited.
- Logging and other industrial operations must meet requirements for fire prevention, such as fire tools, water supply, and watchman service when those operations are occurring on lands protected by ODF. Contact your local Stewardship Forester at any NEO District office for more information.
- Campfires must be DEAD OUT! Recreationists are reminded that campfires need to be attended and fully extinguished before being left. Get permission from the landowner prior to starting a campfire.
- The use of Sky Lanterns is always illegal in Oregon.

For information on restrictions across the Northeast Oregon District, dial: **(541) 975-3027** or visit [www.bmidc.org](http://www.bmidc.org), for current information on fire restrictions.

To report a fire, dial 9-1-1.

Make sure you know the fire restrictions before you head out. Check with your local Forest Service office for fire regulations on National Forest land, or BLM office for lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Information on Public-Use Restrictions on the Oregon Department of Forestry, Umatilla National Forest and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest can be found at <http://bmidc.org/index.shtml> under Current Information: Fire Restrictions.



## FIRE RESTRICTION INFORMATION FOR OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

PROTECTED LANDS IN NORTHEAST OREGON, 2022 FOR CURRENT RESTRICTION INFORMATION CALL 541-975-3027 OR VISIT [BMIDC.ORG/RESTRICTIONS](http://BMIDC.ORG/RESTRICTIONS) OR QR Code



### Low Fire Danger (Out of Fire Season)

#### PROHIBITED:

- Use of sky lanterns throughout the year in Oregon.

### Moderate Fire Danger

#### PROHIBITED:

- Permit Required for all open debris burning and use of burn barrels.
  - Contact your local ODF office as listed below to inquire about a permit.
- Campfires for recreational and/or cooking purposes are allowed.
  - Possession of the following firefighting equipment is required; shovel or other firefighting tool, minimum of 1-gallon of water, or 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher and a fire watch at least one hour after extinguishing.
- Use of exploding targets.
- Use of tracer ammunition or any bullet with a pyrotechnic charge in its base.
- Use of sky lanterns throughout the year in Oregon.

**FIRE SEASON**  
**IN EFFECT**

### High Fire Danger

#### PROHIBITED:

- All open debris burning and the use of burn barrels.
- Open fires, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires, and warming fires, except at designated locations.
  - 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 Noon-8PM.
  - Non-industrial chainsaw use is allowed at all other hours if the following firefighting equipment is present with each operating saw: one shovel or other firefighting tool, and one 8 ounce or larger fire extinguisher or 1-gallon of water. In addition, a fire watch is required at least one hour following the end of chainsaw use.
  - Electric Chainsaws are allowed all day.
- Use of fireworks.
- Use of exploding targets.
- Use of tracer ammunition or any bullet with a pyrotechnic charge in its base.
- 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.
- Smoking while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water, or at a cleared area free of flammable vegetation.
- Possession of the following firefighting equipment is required for any vehicle/UTV/ATV traveling on unimproved roadways, where flammable vegetation exists on roadway; shovel or other firefighting tool, minimum of 1-gallon of water, or 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher.
- Mowing of dried and cured grass with power driven equipment is prohibited Noon-8PM, except for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.
  - Electric string trimmers are allowed all day.
- Cutting, grinding, and welding of metal is prohibited Noon-8PM. Cutting, grinding, and welding of metal is permitted at all other hours, if conducted in a 10-foot area cleared of flammable vegetation, shovel or other firefighting tool, minimum of 1-gallon of water, or 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher.
- Use of sky lanterns throughout the year in Oregon.

## Extreme Fire Danger

### PROHIBITED

- All open debris burning including the use of burn barrels.
- Open fires, 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.
- Use of fireworks.
- Use of exploding targets.
- Use of tracer ammunition or any bullet with a pyrotechnic charge in its base.
- Non-industrial chainsaw use.
  - Electric Chainsaws are allowed all day
- Cutting, grinding, and welding of metal.
- Mowing of dried and cured grass with power driven equipment, except for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.
  - Electric string trimmers are allowed all day.
- Smoking while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water, or at a cleared area free of flammable vegetation.
- 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.
- Use of sky lanterns throughout the year in Oregon.

\*The above public use restrictions are in accordance with ORS 477.535

**\*If you would like further information, please call your local office.**

**Baker City: 541-523-5831**

**La Grande: 541-963-3168**

**Pendleton: 541-276-3491**

**Wallowa: 541-886-2881**