



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Forestry

Central Oregon District

John Day Unit

PO Box 546

John Day, OR 97845

Phone: (541) 575-1139

FAX: (541) 575-2253

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Angie Johnson, (541) 620-4360



"Stewardship in Forestry"

SUSPENSION OF REGULATED USE CLOSURE ON PRIVATE LANDS IN CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT

Last week, the Regulated Use Closure on private land was suspended by Oregon Department of Forestry, Central Oregon District – John Day Unit. This includes ODF protected private, state, county, municipal, and tribal lands in six counties: Grant, Harney, Wheeler, Morrow, Umatilla, and Gilliam Counties. Fire season is still in effect for the John Day Unit; however, precautions still need adhered to, especially as they relate to campfires left unattended. "The cooler temperatures and the limited amount of moisture received this fall have moderated fire danger, but these conditions have not eliminated the danger completely," stated George Ponte, District Forester of Central Oregon District. "The District is still in a declared fire season."

Fire season requirements include:

- Burning permits on all private forest and range lands within the Forest Protection District for Central Oregon District). Contact your local ODF office in John Day, Fossil, or Monument to acquire a burning permit for burn barrels. At this time, burning of logging slash is not allowed.
- 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 private lands protected by ODF. Contact your local Stewardship Forester at any local ODF office for more information.
- Campfires must be DEAD OUT! Do not leave unattended.

After rain and cooler temperatures, people may be experiencing a false sense of security which leads to a higher occurrence of human-caused fires. It is important for people to practice fire prevention, especially as it relates to campfires. The John Day Unit and Malheur National Forest personnel have responded to many unattended warming or campfires left during this hunting season. Do not leave any fire unattended, including small warming fires. Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving it. Have water and a shovel nearby. When practicing campfire safety, build your campfire on bare, level ground away from combustible materials and keep the fire small. Stay with your fire until you are finished. Before leaving, drown it with water, stirring with a shovel until all embers are soaking wet and cold to the touch.

To report a fire, call John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at (541) 575-1321 or Burns Interagency Communication Center at (541) 573-1000.

For further information, contact your local Oregon Department of Forestry office:

John Day Unit (541) 575-1139

Fossil Sub-Unit (541) 763-2575

Monument Guard Station (541) 934-2300

You can also check our website at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/JD/aboutus.shtml>.

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