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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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FIRE SEASON ENDS ON PRIVATE LANDS

Protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry

Central Oregon~ This morning, Wednesday October 17, 2007, at 12:01 a.m., fire season came to an end on private lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry; this includes Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Morrow, Wasco, and Wheeler counties.

Many fire restrictions were lifted; however, one restriction still remains: burn permits.

An Oregon Department of Forestry burn permit will be required for open burning on forest lands which are not within a rural or municipal fire department. You can acquire these permits from your local Oregon Department of Forestry office. An Oregon Department of Forestry permit is also required for all burning of logging or thinning slash regardless of location. For backyard and other debris burning within a rural or municipal fire district, please contact your local fire department for information on local regulations.

Fall / Winter Fire Concerns

One fall / winter concern of the Oregon Department of Forestry is the burning of slash piles. Every summer fires occur from "holdover" slash burns from that previous winter. Even in the winter, persons who burn slash piles can take simple steps to prevent escapes:

- Obtain any permit required by the Oregon Department of Forestry. "The permit gives us the opportunity to discuss and document prevention measures," stated Russ Lane, John Day Unit Forester.
- Ensure all piles are completely out.

Oregon Department of Forestry firefighters in Central Oregon fought 192 fires this season and of those fires 104 were lightning caused. Human caused fires burned 3,389 acres while lightning caused fires burned 37,488.

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