

September 24, 2009

NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Kevin Benton, Oregon Department of Forestry, Prineville	541-447-5658
Echo Murray, Walker Range Fire Patrol Association, Hwy 58	541-433-2451
Paul Halliday, Oregon Department of Forestry, The Dalles	541-296-4626

## Hunter Information Booths Open Next Week

*Central Oregon*~ Hunter Information Booths will be opening across central Oregon Wednesday October 1st and some staffed through Friday October 3rd (see page 2 for location and times). Hunter booths are available for the public to get current fire restriction information on open fires, driving off road, chainsaw use, smoking in the forest, and more; road closure information as well as map sales, free gun locks, and coffee will also be available at most locations.

Early fall is the most dynamic time of year for fire danger. Cold nights alone do not provide added moisture and hot afternoons continue to dry out vegetation. Central Oregon received scattered showers over the past week but in recent days has not seen any moisture. The message to hunters and recreationists is to call ahead to the area you are visiting and find out the current fire use restrictions; they quickly change and vary from place to place. Some restrictions have been lifted due to the rain received; however, many areas still prohibit open fires and driving off of improved roads. Currently all Oregon Department of Forestry protected lands within central Oregon prohibit non-industrial chainsaw use from 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and require a one-hour watch and fire equipment.

Fire restriction / fire use information can be found at the following locations:

**Private lands in the Central Oregon area** - The Oregon Department of Forestry:

Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties – Prineville Unit	541-447-5658
Gilliam, Morrow, Hood River, and Wasco counties – The Dalles Unit	541-296-4626
Wheeler, Grant, and Harney counties – John Day Unit	541-575-1139

<http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/COD/aboutus.shtml>

**Public lands – USDA Forest Service**

Deschutes National Forest	541-383-5300
Ochoco National Forest	541-416-6500
Malheur National Forest	541-575-1321

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/fire/>

**Public lands – USDI Bureau of Land Management**

Prineville District	541-416-6700
---------------------	--------------

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/fire/>

- more -

September 24, 2009

**Hunter Booth Locations:**

- Prineville – at Ray’s on the east side of Prineville off Highway 26  
Wednesday           09/30/09       5:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Thursday             10/1/09           5:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Friday                10/2/09           5:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
  
- La Pine – at Ray’s located on the West side of Hwy 97 in the middle of La Pine  
Thursday             10/1/09           12:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.  
Friday                10/2/09           06:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m..
  
- Highway 58 – On Highway 58 at mile posts 72.5  
Thursday             10/1/09           10:00 a.m. – dark  
Friday                10/2/09           10:00 a.m. – dark
  
- The Dalles – Memaloose Rest Area on I-84  
Friday                10/2/09           9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
  
- The Dalles – Rock Creek Reservoir on Mt Hood National Forest Road 48  
Friday                10/2/09           10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday             10/3/09           8:00 a.m. – 12:00 **noon**

The hunter booths are brought to you by the Central Oregon Fire Prevention Cooperative, the Klamath County Fire Prevention Cooperative and the Mid-Columbia Fire Prevention Cooperative.

#       #       #