



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

3200 Delap Road
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

2015 Fire Season Goes Into Effect

For Immediate Release

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Present warming and drying weather conditions have prompted fire officials in Klamath and Lake Counties to declare fire season beginning **Friday, June 5, 2015 at 1201 A.M.** on lands protected by the Klamath-Lake District, Oregon Department of Forestry and the Walker Range Forest Patrol Association. This affects all private, county, and state forest lands, as well as those Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands west of the Gerber Reservoir Area in Klamath County.

"The visual "green-up" of live vegetation, cooler temperatures and cloudiness with periods of rainy weather this late spring have masked the dry conditions in the wildland fuels," stated Randall Baley, Fire Planner, Oregon Department of Forestry. "The current warm and dry weather with even warmer temperatures forecasted going into mid June will dry out the fuels rapidly to warrant starting fire season at this time."

The "Fire Season in effect" declaration puts into place regulations restricting debris burning and timber harvest operations. Wildland and structural fire protection agencies in Klamath County have agreed to **prohibit all outdoor debris burning.** Forest operations that require a Permit to Operate Power Driven Machinery now are required to have **fire tools, on-site water supply, and watchman service** on privately owned forest land. **Declaring "Fire Season" also**

prohibits the release of sky lanterns, the discharge of exploding targets or the discharge of tracer ammunition during this period.

In addition to the “Declaration of Fire Season”, ODF and the Klamath Resource Area (BLM) will be placing the **Klamath River Canyon area from Keno to the State Line in a “Regulated Closure”**. The Closure stipulates the following:

- 1) Possession of the following fire-fighting equipment is required while traveling in the forest, except on state and county roads: an axe, a shovel, and one gallon of water or one 2½ pound or larger fire extinguisher.
 - “Axe” means a wood cutting tool having a handle of not less than 26 inches in length and a head weight of not less than 2 pounds.
 - “Shovel,” means a digging tool having a handle not less than 26 inches in length and a blade of not less than 8 inches in width.
- 2) Smoking in wildland areas is permitted only in enclosed vehicles on roads. Smoking is prohibited while working or traveling in an industrial operation area.
- 3) Open fires, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires, are permitted only at posted and designated sites.
- 4) Non-Industrial Chainsaw usage is prohibited between 1 P.M. and 8 P.M.
- 5) Fireworks are prohibited within the Closure Area.

The Klamath River Canyon has been placed under this Regulated Closure due to its lower elevation, drier fuels, and steep terrain. The Klamath-Lake District website [<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/pages/field/kl/aboutklamathlake.aspx>] is available to assist in keeping people informed of current and changing conditions for our area.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District and the Fremont - Winema National Forest are currently under Industrial Fire Precaution Level 1. All use of fireworks is banned on National Forest lands.

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