



NEWS

July 13, 2010

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
SOUTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT
5286 Table Rock RD
Central Point, OR 97502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SOUTHWEST OREGON NEWS MEDIA

Contact: Greg Alexander, Medford Unit Forester, (541) 664-3328
Rick Dryer, Grants Pass Unit Forester, (541) 474-3152

FIRE DANGER LEVEL CLIMBS TO HIGH THURSDAY

The fire danger level on Oregon Department of Forestry-protected lands in Jackson and Josephine counties will up a notch on July 15. The fire danger level will be raised to High (yellow) at 1:00 a.m. Thursday, and affects 1.8 million acres of state, private, county, city and Bureau of Land Management lands protected by ODF's Southwest Oregon District. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level will remain at level 1 (one).

Restrictions currently in effect, and which will remain in effect, include:

- All debris burning, including debris burned in burn barrels, are prohibited.
- Fireworks use on forestlands is prohibited.

These additional fire prevention restrictions go into effect July 15:

- Campfires will be allowed only in designated campgrounds. Portable stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels will be allowed in other locations.
- Motorized vehicles will be allowed only on improved roads.

- Chain saws may not be used between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. During other hours, chain saw users must have an ax, a shovel and an 8-oz or larger fire extinguisher at the job site, and a fire watch is required for one hour after the saw is shut down.
- Mowing of dead or dry grass with power-driven equipment will not be allowed between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. This restriction does not include mowing of green lawns, or when equipment is used for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.
- Cutting, grinding or welding metal will not be allowed between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. These activities will be allowed during other hours provided the work site is cleared of potentially flammable vegetation and other materials, and a water supply is at the job site.
- Smoking while traveling will be allowed only in vehicles on improved roads.
- Electric fence controllers must be approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories Inc., or be certified by the Department of Consumer and Business Services, and be installed and used in compliance with the fence controller's instructions for fire safe operation.

In the Wild and Scenic section of the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Marial, the following fire prevention restrictions are currently in effect will remain in effect:

- Smoking will be prohibited while traveling, except in boats on the water, and on sand or gravel bars that lie between water and high water marks that are free of vegetation.
- A shovel and a one-gallon or larger bucket are required of all travelers.
- Fireworks are prohibited

Beginning July 15, the following restrictions take effect in the Wild and Scenic section of the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Marial:

- Open fires will be prohibited, including campfires, cooking fires and warming fires. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels, and charcoal fires for cooking and built in raised fire pans, will allowed on sand or gravel bars that lie between water and high water marks which are free of vegetation. Ashes must be hauled out.

For further information about fire restrictions in all parts of the Wild and Scenic Section of the Rogue River, contact the Smullin Visitor Center located at the Rand National Historic Site at (541) 479-3735 or your local Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest office.

Information about fire season restrictions on ODF-protected lands is available online at www.swofire.oregon.gov and at ODF Southwest Oregon District unit offices:

- Medford Unit, 5286 Table Rock Rd.; (541) 664-3328
- Grants Pass Unit, 5375 Monument Dr.; (541) 474-3152

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