



NEWS

October 26, 2005

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SOUTHWEST OREGON NEWS MEDIA

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FIRE SEASON ENDS ON ODF-PROTECTED FORESTLANDS

Fire season ended today at 8:00 A.M., October 26, 2005, on forestlands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District, and applies to state, county, private and Bureau of Land Management forestlands in Jackson and Josephine counties.

The district declared fire season on June 27 and it lasted 122 days.

Open and barrel burning are allowed as of today, but residents are required to follow local burning regulations. Briefly, here are the open burning regulations for Jackson and Josephine counties:

- Open burning is disallowed within the city limits of Medford and Jacksonville.
- Many fire districts require a permit that must be obtained prior to starting an open burn. Call your local fire protection district for permit information.
- Burning within Jackson County's Air Quality Maintenance Area is controlled. Call 776-7007 to find out whether burning is allowed prior to lighting an open fire. In the City of Rogue River area, call 582-2876.
- In Josephine County, call 476-9663 for open burning information.

Southwest Oregon District Fire Season Statistics

	2005	10-Year Average
<u>Human-Caused Fires</u>		
Number of Fires	176	175
Acres Burned	3,247	464
<u>Lightning-Caused Fires</u>		
Number of Fires	12	59
Acres Burned	1,726	4,232
<u>All Fires</u>		
Number of Fires	187	233
Acres Burned	4,972	4,696

More than 96 percent of all fires on Southwest Oregon District-protected lands were controlled at 10 acres or less. Equipment use caused more fires than any other category (e.g. lightning, juveniles, smokers, etc.).

Sixty-seven of the district's fires were caused by equipment; this category includes power lines, vehicles, farm machinery, logging equipment, brush cutters and mowers. Fires caused by equipment use burned nearly 3,133 acres.

The district's largest fires were the Wasson Fire, which burned 1,510 acres, and the Deer Creek Fire, which burned 1,548 acres. The district also managed a portion of the 14,908-acre Blossom Complex.

The Southwest Oregon District also benefited from a state-contracted retardant bomber stationed at the Medford Airtanker Base from July 7 through September 20. This bomber, and others, dropped 99 loads of retardant on 16 district fires; retardant drops were credited with stopping the spread of 11 of these fires. Nearly 275,000 gallons of retardant were used on fires within the district.

For more information, contact the Oregon Department of Forestry's unit office in your area:

ODF Medford Unit, 5286 Table Rock Rd., Central Point. Phone: (541) 664-3328

ODF Grants Pass Unit, 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass. Phone: (541) 474-3152

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