



NEWS

July 12, 2006

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, (541) 664-3328
Rick Dryer, (541) 474-3152

FIRE DANGER CLIMBS ON ODF-PROTECTED LANDS

The public use fire danger level on lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District climbs to "high" (yellow) at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 14. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) remains at Level I.

The fire danger level has been "moderate" since fire season was declared on May 24.

Fire precaution levels assigned by the Southwest Oregon District, located in Medford, affects state, private, county and Bureau of Land Management forestlands in Jackson and Josephine counties. The district has unit offices in Medford and Grants Pass.

The number of fires on the district has been steadily increasing over the past few weeks, and most of the fires have been caused by open burning, equipment use, and escaped camp fires. Currently, the district has logged 77 wildfires on the district. Only six of those fires were caused by lightning. The rest have been caused by people. The 77 fires have burned a total of 93 acres.

Here is a summary of public use restrictions currently in effect:

- Debris burning, including burn barrels, is prohibited.
- Fireworks are prohibited.

Beginning July 14, the following public use fire restrictions will be in effect:

- Camp fires will be allowed only in designated campgrounds. This restriction includes charcoal-fired barbecues; however, stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels will be allowed.
- Vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, will not be allowed on unimproved roads.
- Smoking will be allowed only in a vehicle and only while on an improved road.
- The following activities will be disallowed between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.:
 - Chain saw use. During other hours, users must have an axe, shovel and fire extinguisher on-site, and provide a one-hour fire watch after using the saw.
 - Mowing dry grass (except for agricultural purposes, such as cutting hay).
 - Cutting, grinding or welding metal. During other hours, a water supply must be present at the work site and work may proceed only in a cleared area.
- In the Wild and Scenic Section of the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Marial:
 - Smoking will be prohibited except in boats on the water, and on vegetation-free gravel bars and sand bars.
 - Open fires will be prohibited, including camp fires, 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 be allowed on vegetation-free gravel bars and sand bars.
 - Travelers must carry a shovel and bucket (one-gallon size).
 - Fireworks will be prohibited.

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

- Medford Unit, 5286 Table Rock Rd., Central Point. Phone: (541) 664-3328
- Grants Pass Unit, 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass. Phone: (541) 474-3152

Southwest Oregon District fire precaution level information is also posted on the World Wide Web at <http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/SWO/SWOfire.shtml>

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