



NEWS

September 28, 2006

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
SOUTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT
5286 Table Rock Rd
Medford, OR 97502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SOUTHWEST OREGON NEWS MEDIA

ROGUE RIVER-SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST
Supervisor's Office
333 West 8th Street, PO Box 520
Medford, Oregon 97501

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FIRE CREWS ON ALERT AS RIFLE SEASON BEGINS

Wildfire danger in southwest Oregon's forests is high and hunters are reminded to be careful while camping, hiking or driving through the woods. September and October are high-risk months because grasses, weeds, fallen needles and leaves are fully dried and will ignite easily. A sudden afternoon breeze can easily turn a smoldering cigarette or abandoned warming fire into a large, potentially destructive wildfire.

Campfires are allowed only in designated campgrounds, and campfires must always be fully extinguished before leaving a campsite or going to bed. Keep a shovel, ax and a water supply within easy reach of the campfire.

Motorized vehicles are allowed only on improved roads, and smoking is allowed only in an enclosed vehicle, building or designated campsite.

Chain saw use is prohibited on National Forest lands, but allowed on state, private and Bureau of Land Management lands except between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Users must have an ax, shovel and fire extinguisher on-site, and provide a one-hour fire watch after using the saw.

To report a fire, call 9-1-1.

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 posted on the World Wide Web at <http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/SWO/SWOfire.shtml>

The Forest Service encourages hunters to be aware of their location and to know the rules for firearm use in and around recreation areas. Some personal-use restrictions are still in effect that limits campfires and smoking on National Forest System lands. Area closures may also be in effect on portions of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in order to ensure public safety. .

Please contact your local ranger district office for more information and map prior to travel on National Forest Lands. More information about the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest is also posted on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/>

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