



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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**NOTICE OF EMERGENCY FIRE PREVENTION
ORDERS ON PUBLIC LAND WITHIN THE VALE
DISTRICT BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
(BLM) AND BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
(RECLAMATION) FEE AND WITHDRAWN LANDS**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Vale, Oregon / Reclamation, CPN Region

ACTION: Emergency Fire Prevention Orders for lands administered by and within the boundaries of the Vale District BLM in Baker, Umatilla, Wallowa, Union, Morrow, and Asotin County in Washington.

SUMMARY: The BLM and Reclamation are temporarily prohibiting some activities and uses of the public lands within the boundaries of the Vale District (BLM) during periods of high fire danger. This regulation is necessary to protect natural resources and the public's health and safety.

DATES: Beginning on July 22, 2023 and will remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DISCUSSION: These orders will apply to all public lands administered by the Vale District BLM and fee and withdrawn lands under the jurisdiction of Reclamation within the boundaries of the BLM Vale District. These agencies have determined that these orders are necessary to protect natural resources and provide for public safety. Reclamation lands administered by agencies other than the BLM will determine their own restrictions. Pursuant to 43 CFR 9212.2 and 43 CFR 423.3(d), the following acts are prohibited on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (Vale District) and Reclamation jurisdictional lands within the Vale District (BLM):

Prohibited activities

1. Building, maintaining, or attending an open fire, or wood-fired stove/ smoker/ portable brazier fire, including charcoal briquette fires. **EXCEPTION:** Self-contained liquefied and bottled gas equipment for cooking and warming is permitted. When used outside of developed recreation sites, they must be within an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is clear of all vegetative materials.
2. Smoking outside of a vehicle, trailer, or building, except within areas barren of all vegetative materials for at least 6 feet in diameter, or aboard boats on rivers and lakes.
3. Possessing, discharging, or using any type of fireworks, explosives, or other explosive or chemical composition pyrotechnic device, including exploding targets.
4. Discharging or using tracer, steel component (core or jacket), or incendiary ammunition. **EXCEPTION:** A person with a valid State hunting license actively engaged in the legal pursuit/take of Game/Non-Game species in accordance with current hunting seasons.
5. Shooting at any metallic object, including but not limited to using metal targets for target shooting.
6. Operating a chainsaw, blowtorch, or the cutting, grinding, and/or welding of metal.
7. Releasing or causing to be released any airborne paper lanterns (sky lanterns), fire balloons, or other aerial luminaries.

- 8. Operating or parking an internal combustion motorized vehicle outside of existing roads or ways, or traversing roads with vegetative material that touches the undercarriage of the vehicle.
- 9. Operating any other equipment with an internal combustion engine in an area that is not clear of vegetative material up to 10 feet in diameter.
- 10. Operating any internal combustion motorized vehicle or equipment that is wider than 46 inches or has a dry weight of 800 pounds or more, on public lands without a shovel not less than 26 inches in overall length, with a blade not less than 8 inches wide, and a container with at least one gallon of water, or a fully charged and operable 2.5-pound fire extinguisher. All motorcycles, All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV), and side-by-side Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) must be equipped with an approved and functional spark arrestor.

Persons exempted from this order

Pursuant to 43 CFR 9212.3, the BLM may issue permits to persons to specifically authorize them to engage in acts otherwise prohibited under this order. Pursuant to 43 CFR 9212.2(b)(3), the following are exempt from this order. An exemption does not necessarily absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire caused by an exempted activity.

- Any Federal, state, or local government employee acting in his or her official capacity.
- Any member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force during performance of an official duty.

Penalties for Violations

Anyone who is found guilty of violating a fire prevention order may be subject to prosecution under any applicable law or BLM regulation. A violation of this order may be classified as a Class A Misdemeanor Offense under 43 USC 1733(a) Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 18 USC 3559, and 18 USC 3571 Sentence of Fine - Sentencing Reform Act, Oct. 12, 1984. If the violation does not result in death, anyone who violates this order may be fined not more than \$100,000 and/or imprisoned for not more than 12 months or may be fined in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 USC 3571. Restitution for total fire suppression and damage costs incurred will be borne by the responsible party.



 Shane DeForest
 Acting District Manager

Date 7-21-23