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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Central Oregon Fire Management Partnership Declares 2025 Fire Season

LAKEVIEW, ORE. – Spring weather brought much needed moisture to South Central Oregon. However, recent warmer temperatures and breezy conditions have decreased local fuel moisture. As a result, fire managers will declare fire season in Klamath and Lake counties starting Friday, June 6, 2025, at 12:01 a.m. This declaration includes all private, county and state wildlands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Klamath-Lake District. It also applies to the Fremont-Winema National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lakeview District, the Sheldon-Hart Mountain and Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complexes, and Crater Lake National Park.

With the predicted warmer temperatures and winds, starting a fire that can grow several acres in minutes does not take much of a spark or heat. Fire managers will continue to monitor current conditions over the next weeks and reevaluate the fire danger level as needed.

Remember that abandoned campfires are the number one source of human-caused wildfires on public lands. Most campfires stay small and are easy for firefighters to put out, but it only takes one to threaten lives, destroy property, and change a beautiful area forever. Escaped debris burning remains the largest source of human-caused fires on private land. With the declaration of fire season, all burning is prohibited without a permit.

Fire danger level will be Moderate, and the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) will be I.

Moderate Fire Danger means:

- Fires can start from most accidental causes, but the number of fire starts is generally low.
- Fires in open cured grasslands will burn briskly and spread rapidly on windy days.
- Timber fires spread slowly to moderately fast.

IFPL I: Closed Season - Fire precaution requirements are in effect. A Fire Watch is required at this and all higher levels unless otherwise waived.

- Fire extinguisher and shovel must be with each chainsaw.
- Fire extinguishers must be in all vehicles.
- Chainsaws must have a .023-inch mesh screen installed in the exhaust.
- Approved spark arresters must be on all internal combustion engines.
- Watchmen service must be provided for 1 hour after the shutdown of power equipment for the day unless otherwise specified.
- No smoking is permitted while working or traveling through any operations area on public

land except while in enclosed vehicles.

- Permits to burn are required unless waived in advance.

For the Oregon Department of Forestry, the “Fire Season in effect” declaration puts into place regulations restricting debris burning and timber harvest operations. Wildland and structural fire protection agencies in Klamath County have agreed to prohibit all outdoor debris burning. Forest operations that require a Permit to Operate Power Driven Machinery now are required to have fire tools, on-site water supply, and watchman service on privately owned forest land. Declaring “Fire Season” also prohibits:

- (1) Smoking while working in or traveling through any operation area.
- (2) The use of fuse and caps for blasting, unless approval is granted by the forester.
- (3) The discharge of an exploding target inside the district or within one-eighth mile of the district.
- (4) The discharge of tracer ammunition on land that is within the district or within one-eighth mile of the district, or when discharged, crosses above land that is within the district or within one-eighth mile of the district.

For more information visit: [Oregon Department of Forestry : Fire : Fire : State of Oregon](#), or contact the local ODF offices: Klamath 541-883-5681, Lake 541-947-3311

In conjunction with the declaration of the 2025 fire season, all lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management within half a mile of the Klamath River from the Keno Dam downstream to the Oregon/California border fall under this fire prevention order.

“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) FLPMA, 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.”

Human caused wildfires are preventable, we ask that the public do their part to help prevent wildfires. Stay up to date on the changes this season by visiting our website or Facebook page.

For more information and current fire restrictions, visit <https://www.scofmp.org/>

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The South Central Oregon Fire Management Partnership provides comprehensive wildland fire services to more than eight million acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management Lakeview District; Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Region; Fremont-Winema National Forest; Oregon Department of Forestry Klamath-Lake District; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Sheldon-Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex; and Crater Lake National Park. The area encompasses federal, state, tribal, and private lands within south central Oregon and northwest Nevada.