

## **OWYHEE MOUNTAINS Fire Restriction Area**

### **AREA RESTRICTION COORDINATOR:**

The Boise Dispatch Center Manager will serve as the Area Restriction Coordinator representing the Public Land Agencies with jurisdiction in this area. The two Assistant Center Managers will serve as alternate Area Restriction Coordinators.

### **FIRE RESTRICTION EVALUATION GUIDELINES:**

The following guidelines will be used to assist in determining when to consider initiating or rescinding restrictions. The weather related factors will be taken from RAWs and/or manual weather stations that best represent the conditions in the Owyhee Mountains Area:

- 1,000 hr. Time Lag Fuel Moisture Content is 12% or less.
- 3 day mean Energy Release Component (ERC) is at the 90th percentile or above.
- Live Fuel Moisture Content is 75% or less.
- Fire Danger Rating Adjective Class is at very high or extreme.
- Area is receiving high occurrence of human-caused fire starts or the risk is predicted to increase.
- Adverse fire weather conditions and risks are predicted to continue.

#### **Stage I:**

If at least three of the above conditions are met consider a Stage I restriction.

#### **Stage II:**

Consider initiating a Stage II restriction after a Stage I restriction has been in effect and four or more of the above conditions are met.

### **AREA LAND MANAGEMENT DECISION GROUP:**

The following Public Land Management Administrators will be advised of present and predicted fire conditions and risks from information listed in the Evaluation Guidelines above by the Fire Restriction Coordinator. Jointly, they will discuss the need for initiating or removing restrictions, timing, and make decisions if these actions are warranted. To avoid confusion to the public, a majority of the Agencies must agree that the actions are necessary before they will be initiated for the area. After coming to agreement, each Agency will be responsible for completing the written documentation and initiating the notification procedures required by law to legalize the restrictions within their jurisdiction.

- \* Boise District - BLM   \* Idaho Department of Lands
- \* Twin Falls District – BLM

### **KEY CONTACT LIST:**

The following administrative agencies will be notified of the impending restrictions and provided maps of the restriction areas, reasoning for going into restrictions, present fire conditions, etc., prior to releasing the information to the public. Enough information will be provided to them to allow them the ability to accurately answer questions from their local constituents.

**(Fire Departments):**

- \* Bruneau F.D.    \* Hagerman F.D.
- \* Buhl F.D.    \* Homedale F.D.
- \* Castleford F.D.    \* Marsing F.D.
- \* Glenns Ferry/King Hill F.D.    \* Silver City Fire and Rescue Inc.

Work with the Public Affairs Officers of the agencies and units within the Decision Group to develop new and innovative methods of making the public

**(Law Enforcement Agencies):**

- \* Canyon County S.D.    \* Owyhee County S.D.
- \* Elmore County S.D.    \* Twin Falls County S.D.
- \* Idaho State Police

aware of fire problems as well as steps to reduce fire impacts.

**(State Agencies/Local Agencies):**

- \* Bureau of Homeland Security    \* Idaho Transportation Dept.
- \* Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game    \* Owyhee County Commissioners
- \* Idaho Parks and Rec. – Three Island Park    \* Owyhee County Road and Bridge
- \* Idaho Parks and Recreation Dept.    \* U.S. Bureau of Rec. Swan Falls Dam

**(Other Federal Agencies):**

- \* Bureau of Reclamation    \* Duck Valley Indian Reservation - BIA
- \* Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge    \* Mountain Home AFB Fire Department

**MEDIA PLAN:**

The Boise District BLM Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist will take the lead for coordinating information release with the Public Affairs Officers from the Idaho Department of Lands, the Twin Falls District BLM, and the Boise National Forest. The alternate Lead Public Affairs Officer will be the Idaho Department of Lands Fire Warden. The Lead Public Affairs Officer will work closely with the Area Restrictions Coordinator and Public Affairs Officers of the other agencies or units within the Decision Group to provide a unified and consistent message. The unit Public Affairs Officers will make the media contacts to the outlets within their spheres of influence. Objectives of the Media Plan are to keep the public and Agency employees informed of present and predicted fire conditions and restrictions in order to reduce the number of human-caused starts.

**Responsibilities of the Lead Public Affairs Officer:**

- . Work with the Area Restriction Coordinator on timing of initiating or rescinding restrictions and Prevention Personnel on problem identification to assure an organized approach.
- . Assure that all of the internal personnel of the Land Management Agencies are informed of the restrictions, boundaries, reasoning, etc.
- . Design a systematic procedure for releasing information to all of the media (radio, print, t.v., etc.).
- . Take all steps possible to assure that the public is informed of the restrictions, boundaries, etc.
- . Inform all agencies listed in the Key Contact list of the restrictions prior to making the information public so they have answers to upcoming questions. Provide them with maps of the restriction area(s), current and predicted fire conditions, and the exact requirements of the restrictions.
- . Integrate the fire restrictions into the overall Prevention Program to optimize effectiveness.