



ODF Prineville Unit Media Release

For Immediate Release: May 15, 2026

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Prineville, OR—Effective at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, May 18th 2026, the Prineville Unit, Fossil Sub-Unit, and Sisters Sub-Unit will be going into a Regulate Use Closure. This will be in place until further notice. Central Oregon is currently in High fire danger due to warm, dry, windy conditions that are more commonly seen in mid-June.

A Regulated Use Closure encompasses the following restrictions:

1. Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads.
2. Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires, except in designated areas. The use of portable appliances such as camp stoves and fire pits using liquified or bottled fuels are allowed in clear areas free of flammable vegetation. The following is required where open fires and appliances are allowed; one shovel and one gallon of water or one 2 ½ pound fire extinguisher.
3. Chainsaw use is prohibited between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Chainsaw use is permitted at all other hours, if the following firefighting equipment is present with each operating saw: one axe, one shovel, and one operational 8 ounce or larger fire extinguisher. In addition, a fire watch is required at least one hour following the use of each saw.
4. Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is prohibited between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. At all other times the area is to be cleared of flammable vegetation and the following fire equipment is required: one axe, one shovel, and one operational 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher in good working order.
5. Use of motor vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, is prohibited, except on improved roads and except for vehicle use by a landowner and employees of the landowner upon their own land while conducting activities associated with their livelihood.
6. Possession of the following firefighting equipment is required while traveling in a motorized vehicle, except on federal and state highways, county roads and driveways:

one shovel and one gallon of water or one operational 2½ pound or larger fire extinguisher, except all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles which must be equipped with an approved spark arrestor in good working condition.

7. Use of fireworks is prohibited.
8. Blasting is prohibited.
9. Any electric fence controller in use shall be: 1) Listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory or be certified by the Department of Consumer and Business Services; and 2) Operated in compliance with manufacturer's instructions.
10. Backyard debris burning, use of exploding targets, and tracer ammunition are also prohibited for the duration of Fire Season.

The counties protected by Prineville, Fossil, and Sisters ODF are: Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Jefferson, and Wheeler.

Your cooperation is appreciated as we move into the hot, dry, summer months.