

Fire closures in effect near Lake Billy Chinook, several Central Oregon river recreation corridors

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CENTRAL OREGON-As the weather begins its drying trend into the summer season, the grasses along the river corridors quickly dry out, particularly in the high desert locations. This creates an increased threat for wild land fires to occur. An annual closure order of public lands along these river recreation corridors is necessary for the protection of natural resources and the health and safety of the public.

Closure orders go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on June 1, 2007, and last through October 15, 2007, for all of the rivers indicated below-with the exception of the John Day River closure, which lasts through October 1, 2007.

The following fire closures will be in effect on public lands within Wild and Scenic River corridor boundaries and public lands in other areas as described below:

Lower Crooked River

Within ½ mile of the river's edge along the Lower Crooked River from the Highway 97 bridge to Lake Billy Chinook.

Deschutes River

Within ½ mile of the river's edge along the Middle Deschutes River from Highway 20 to Lake Billy Chinook; within ½ mile of Lake Simustus (between Round Butte Dam and Pelton Dam); within the Lower Deschutes National Wild and Scenic River corridor (Pelton Dam to the Columbia River).

White River

Within ½ mile of the river's edge from its confluence with the Deschutes River upstream to the eastern boundary of the Mount Hood National Forest.

Lake Billy Chinook Those public lands located within ½ mile of Lake Billy Chinook.

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John Day River

On public lands within ¼ mile of the river's edge in the following locations: The main stem John Day River, from Tumwater Falls (River Mile 10) upstream to Kimberly (river mile 185); The North Fork John Day River, from the confluence with the main stem at Kimberly (River Mile 0) upstream to the Umatilla National Forest boundary (river mile 62); The South Fork John Day River from Smokey Creek (river mile 6) upstream to the Malheur National Forest boundary (river mile 47).

PROHIBITED ACTS FOR ALL CLOSURE AREAS DESCRIBED ABOVE:

1. Building, igniting, maintaining, attending, using, or being within 20 feet of a campfire, charcoal fire, or any other type of open flame. This includes portable propane campfires and wood pellet burning devices. Exception: You may use commercially manufactured metal camp stoves and shielded lanterns when fueled with bottle propane or liquid fuel and operated in a responsible manner.

2. Smoking except while in non-public buildings, within a closed vehicle, or in a boat floating on the water or standing in the water.

Except in emergency conditions or permission by an agency-authorized officer, there are no exceptions to this closure. A violation of this closure is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both.