



Hunters, please check for fire restrictions and respect land closures

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August 31, 2015

Hunting season has arrived, but fire season is still here. Wildfires will burn for many more weeks until enough rain or snow falls.

As the weeks go by, more hunters will be in the woods and out on the range. **Fire managers are asking hunters to do two things before they head outdoors: (1) check for and follow fire restrictions and (2) respect land closures.**

Check for and Follow Fire Restrictions

There are fire restrictions in place for much of Idaho, meaning **no campfires** and **no smoking outside** in the areas covered by restrictions. In some places there are additional limitations related to operating a chainsaw and any activity that generates flame. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game also may have additional limitations on the lands they manage.

All hunters are encouraged to visit <http://idahofireinfo.blogspot.com/p/fire-restrictions.html> or call 1-844-ID-FIRES before their hunt to find out the activities that are limited under the restrictions, and to see specifically where restrictions are in place.

Idaho Fish and Game also set up a web page located at fishandgame.idaho.gov/fire that acts as a clearinghouse of information about Idaho fires, including restrictions and closures in place.

Respect Land Closures

One million acres of **private forest lands are closed to the public** for hunting and recreation to reduce the chance of fires starting on those lands.

The **Panhandle and Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests** recently announced **large scale closures** on national forest lands for public safety because of active fire operations, and **closures of state owned endowment lands may be in place** for the same reason as well.

If you plan to hunt on state owned endowment lands, call the [IDL Supervisory Area Office](#) in the vicinity of your hunt to find out if you will be affected by any closures of state endowment lands due to fire operations.

If you plan to hunt on federally managed public lands, call or visit the web pages for the [local Forest Service office](#) or [BLM office](#) to find out if there are any closures on federal lands you need to know about.

Generally, there are fire restrictions in place in the following counties.

Southern and Central Idaho:

Elmore County
Boise County
Valley County
Adams County
Washington County

North-Central and Northern Idaho:

Nez Perce County
Clearwater County
Lewis County
Bonner County
Boundary County
Kootenai County
Shoshone County
Benewah County
Latah County