

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

Umatilla National Forest

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2517 SW Hailey Ave, Pendleton, OR 97801

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Contacts: 541-278-3722 (Joani Bosworth, Public Affairs)

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## Closures Eased in School Wildfire Area

**Pendleton, OR:** As firefighting resources continue mop-up operations in the School Fire area, the need for road, trail and area closures were evaluated and eased to accommodate public access. "There is still a lot of firefighting activity taking place within the fire perimeter and we can't allow unrestricted public access until hazardous conditions are removed," said Monte Fujishin, Pomeroy District Ranger. "However, the fire is 100% contained, and we are making good progress within the interior of the fire, so we feel we can ease some of the restrictions in outlying areas to allow public access. We understand that there is a lot of local interest in getting back on to forest lands to pick berries, hunt and enjoy recreational opportunities."

Previous area, trail and road closures for the School Fire have been rescinded and replaced with the new closure order. "We still have a few roads closed and several roads limited to daytime travel," said Fujishin. All Forest Service lands within the fire perimeter are closed to public access with the exception of Forest Road 47 (Tucannon River Road) which will be open during daylight hours. In addition, several trailheads, campgrounds and dispersed camping opportunities are closed or restricted.

The closure order, dated August 23, prohibits "being on or going into an area inside the perimeter of the school fire."

The order also closes:

- Forest Road 42 from its northern intersection with the Forest boundary to its southern junction with Forest Road 41.
- Forest Road 4206
- Tucannon Campground
- Ladybug Campground
- Panjab Campground
- Meadow Creek Trailhead
- Tucannon Trailhead
- Panjab Trailhead

The following roads are closed between the hours of 9:00 PM to 6: AM, until further notice, and camping is prohibited within 1/2 mile, either side of the road:

- Forest Road 4620-050
- Forest Road 47
- Forest Road 4620
- Forest Road 4625
- Forest Road 4712
- Forest Road 4713

Additional public-use restrictions concerning campfires, smoking, travel and chainsaw use are in effect throughout NE Oregon and SE Washington. Hunters and other forest visitors are urged to check with local Public Land Management Agencies for restriction or closure information before heading out.