

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Pacific

Northwest Region

## Umatilla National Forest

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September 2, 2005

### Additional Closures Lifted in School Wildfire Area

**Pendleton, OR:** Additional closures are being lifted as firefighters continue to remove hazards conditions within the School Fire perimeter, announced Monte Fujishin, Pomeroy District Ranger. "The fire is 100% contained, and as we continue to make progress within the interior of the fire, we will continue to increase access to those areas," said Fujishin.

Previous area, campground and road closures for the School Fire have been rescinded and replaced with the new forest order. The new order, dated September 2, prohibits "being on or going into an area inside the perimeter of the school fire." All Forest Service lands within the fire perimeter will remain closed to public access with the exception of several forest roads and a few campgrounds. "We've opened several roads within the footprint of the fire for travel purposes only. The area off either side of these roads, within the fire perimeter, is still closed to access."

The order opens the following roads, within the fire perimeter,

- Forest Road 40
- Forest Road 4000020
- Forest Road 4016
- Forest Road 4016040
- Forest Road 4018
- Forest Road 4022
- Forest Road 41
- Forest Road 42
- Forest Road 4620
- Forest Road 4625
- Forest Road 47

Roads within the fire perimeter not listed above will remain closed.

Also, camping is now allowed within the boundary of the campground area at Tucannon, Alder Thicket and Forest Boundary Campgrounds. Access to the Stentz Springs and Rose Springs summer homes is also allowed.

"We still have a large number of firefighters and firefighting equipment working in the area," said Fujishin. "The safety of our employees and the public is our number one priority and we must make sure that hazardous conditions are removed before allowing access back into the area." Travelers within the School Fire area are asked to keep their speed down and to watch for firefighter traffic.

A map and list of the new fire closures are available on the Forest website at

[www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma) or by contacting the Pomeroy District Office at (509) 843-1891, in Pomeroy, WA.

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.

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