Federal agencies plan for prescribed fire on Malheur Refuge

HINES, Ore. – Fire crews from the Burns Interagency Fire Zone expect to carry out a 9,200-acre prescribed fire on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Refuge Headquarters within the coming weeks. If weather permits, officials say the project could start as early as Monday, February 9.

The prescribed fire is intended to reduce fuel loading and improve wildlife habitat. The Burns Interagency Fire Zone does a number of prescribed fire projects annually to develop more fire resilient and healthier ecosystems.

Burning will occur as weather and fuel moisture conditions allow. There will be noticeable smoke and increased traffic around prescribed fire areas. The public should be aware of the activity and avoid the project site as much as possible.

For further information on prescribed burning in Harney County, contact the Burns District Bureau of Land Management office at (541) 573-4400.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated $4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.