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Annual Prescribed Burn Planned at Dean Creek

REEDSPORT, Ore. – Fire officials with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plan to conduct controlled pasture burns at the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area between July 6 and 8. Approximately 140 acres will be carefully burned to improve elk forage and habitat at the popular viewing area.

The prescribed burn is part of the BLM’s yearly efforts to improve grazing conditions at Dean Creek so the wild herd of 80 to 100 Roosevelt elk will continue to use the pastures. The BLM will burn pasture land immediately south of the restrooms and interpretive kiosk. The operation is expected to occur over a two day period, but exact days and times are weather dependent.

Smoke from the burns may cause occasional traffic delays on Highway 38. Any closures are expected to be short in duration. Motorists are asked to travel cautiously through the Dean Creek area and traffic controllers will help direct traffic during periods of reduced visibility. The viewing area and restrooms will remain open during the burn operation, but there may be limited parking as fire vehicles occupy the area.

According to Bob Golden, Dean Creek site manager, burning the pastures has proved very successful. “Each year we burn, we see amazing growth of high quality grasses afterwards, and the elk continue to use the area,” said Golden.

“Yes we’re improving habitat, we’re taking steps to protect the public’s health and safety. We make every effort to minimize impacts from smoke on the local community by carefully burning during ideal conditions,” continued Golden.

Prescribed burning at Dean Creek this year involves the collaborative efforts of several contractors and agencies, including the State of Oregon Department of Transportation, the City of Reedsport, Diamond Fire, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

About BLM

The BLM manages more land – more than 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about $1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.