FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Warm Weather Opens up Prescribed Burning Opportunities on Prineville District BLM

Central Ore. – The warm weather that has recently moved into Central Oregon has created opportunities for fuels specialists with the Prineville BLM to complete two prescribed burning projects. Specialists will be burning several hundred acres of piles in the Maston Trail Use Area south of Eagle Crest and will be cleaning up juniper slash leftover from this year’s firewood cutting off of Millican Road about 10 miles southwest of Prineville. The projects are each expected to take several days, and crews will move between each project depending on site specific weather. Burning began yesterday in the Maston area, and specialists plan to have all work done by next week.

The goal of the pile burning in the Maston Trail Use Area is to reduce hazardous fuels leftover from recent thinning projects. While many of these areas had biomass removed as part of the project, not all material was able to be used. The remaining small tree limbs and other material have been piled in preparation for burning. Although not expected to linger, smoke may be visible to residents in Eagle Crest, Redmond and to visitors traveling through areas. Signs will be posted to alert travelers of the prescribed burn.

Millican Road will also be signed to alert travelers taking this route. Smoke may be visible as far north as the Prineville Airport and Highway 126; however it is not expected to impact either. No road closures are anticipated with any of these burns; however, smoke may settle in overnight. Where necessary, motorists should reduce speeds and turn on headlights.

All controlled burns are completed in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry smoke management plan. For more information about prescribed burning, please contact the Prineville BLM at (541) 416-6700.

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About the BLM: 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.

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.