



MEDIA RELEASE

Deschutes National Forest
63095 Deschutes Mkt. Rd., Bend, OR
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/>

Ochoco National Forest
3160 N.E. 3rd St., Prineville, OR
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/>

Prineville District BLM
3050 N.E. 3rd St., Prineville, OR
www.or.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville

Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/fire/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pile Burning Planned for BLM Beach Campground at Lake Billy Chinook

Madras, Oregon – Fuels specialists with the Prineville BLM are anticipating being able to burn 15 acres of piles at the BLM Beach next week, based on the current weather forecast. The BLM Beach is a campground located on the south shore of the Metolius arm of Lake Billy Chinook, ½ mile east of the Three Rivers Recreation Area. Burning is expected to take one day, with mop up and patrol continuing for several days.

This material is leftover from a thinning project designed to reduce the risk of wildfire moving from BLM-administered lands onto private lands in the Three Rivers Recreation Area. This project was designed to meet objectives outlined in the Jefferson County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which identifies a variety of actions that private and public land owners can take to reduce wildfire risk. The Three Rivers home area lost 18 homes in the catastrophic 2002 Eyerly Fire.

Smoke will be visible to local residents and boaters on Lake Billy Chinook. The campground is boat-in only, so no road closures are expected. Patrols and mop-up activities will occur during and following ignition, and will continue until the burn is declared out.

All controlled burns are completed in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry smoke management plan. For more information, visit the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/fire

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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. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. 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.

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.