

NEWSRelease

Bureau of Land Management • BIFZ

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
Burns Interagency Fire Zone • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/fire>

Contact: Tara Martinak (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-020-08-027 • August 28, 2008

BURNS INTERAGENCY FIRE ZONE CONDUCTING PRESCRIBED BURNS

HINES, Oregon – Fire crews from the Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ) expect to conduct several prescribed burns within Harney County this fall. Officials say, if weather permits, they could begin burning the week of August 31 and continue operations off and on until the snow flies.

Projects for this fall include 2,000 acres in Miller Canyon, 10 miles northeast of Crane at the junction of the Stinking Water Access Road and the Warm Springs Reservoir Road; 4,300 acres at Oliver Springs, 9 miles south of Diamond between McCoy and Cucamonga Creeks; and 4,000 acres in the Five Creeks Rangeland Restoration Project area southeast of Diamond near the Kiger wild horse viewing road. Several slash pile burns scattered throughout the District and possibly a handful of forest underburns north of town may also occur as conditions allow.

There may be noticeable smoke and increased traffic around project areas. The public should be aware of the activity and avoid the work sites as much as possible.

The BIFZ conducts a number of prescribed burns each year to reduce fuel loading and the risk of catastrophic large wildfires, to increase forage for livestock and wildlife, and to improve wildlife habitat. Fire Management Officer Steve Morefield said, "These projects are important in our efforts to develop more fire resilient and healthier ecosystems. In the long term, completing these projects will allow for lower intensity fires that are more in tune with the historic natural occurrence of fire in this area."

For further information on BIFZ prescribed burning, contact Fuels Specialist Sean Rothwell at (541) 573-4535.

