

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
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BLM
Burns District Office

Federal agencies plan for spring prescribed fires

HINES, Ore. – Fire crews from the Burns Interagency Fire Zone expect to carry out several prescribed fires within Harney County this spring. If weather permits, officials say the projects could start this month.

The Burns Interagency Fire Zone does a number of prescribed fire projects annually to reduce fuel loading and the risk of catastrophic large wildfires, increase forage for livestock and wildlife, and improve wildlife habitat.

Prescribed fire projects slated for this spring include:

- approximately 2,500 acres in Sodhouse unit 7 on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (immediately adjacent east of the Malheur Field Station);
- 70 acres in the Pine Creek area;
- 1,500 acres near Hay Creek and Rainbow Flat; and,
- 570 acres in the Dairy 109 unit west of Buck Springs.

Fire Management Officer Ken Higle 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.”

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 work sites 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.

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.

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