

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

1301 South G Street • Lakeview, Oregon 97630 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview>

BLM
Lakeview District Office

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LV-09-21
For release: Immediate

Contact: Scott Stoffel
(541) 947-6237

Controlled Burns to Reduce Wildfire Threat

Lakeview, Ore. – As temperatures fall and humidity increases, it's time once again for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Lakeview District to initiate controlled burning.

Beginning next week, approximately 2,000 acres of BLM-managed land are planned for underburning near Gerber Reservoir, 12 miles south of Bly. Another 400 acres of public land located 18 miles northeast of Lakeview are scheduled to be underburned in early October. Additional debris piles will be burned across the Lakeview District this fall and winter as the weather allows.

The objective of these burns is the reduction of hazardous fuels to decrease the threat of wildfire and improve wildlife habitat. All burning will take place when the moisture content of forest and rangeland fuels reach appropriate levels for firefighters to achieve the desired objective, while minimizing risk. Smoke is expected to disperse from the fires fairly quickly, but may be visible from surrounding communities.

Fire crews from the State of Oregon Department of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service will assist the BLM with burn activities.

“Using controlled burns to reduce overgrown vegetation has many benefits,” said Carol Benkosky, BLM Lakeview District Manager. “It promotes forest and rangeland health, lessens the level of risk encountered by wildland firefighters, and decreases the potential for wildfire to spread into areas where people live.”

For more information about these controlled burns, please call the BLM at (541) 947-2177. Additional information is also available on the internet at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview/index.php#>

About the BLM

The BLM manages more land – 256 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.

###

