

# NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Release: May 11, 2016

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## Spring Prescribed Burning in the Rogue and Applegate Valleys Will Produce Visible Smoke

**Medford, Ore.** –The BLM will be conducting prescribed burns on BLM lands at the southern end of the Rogue Valley and the Applegate Valley, starting as early as Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> and will continue as conditions allow. Specific areas include:

- Between Anderson Creek Road and Holton Creek road outside of Talent. Smoke will be seen by people in Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland.
- The back side of Anderson Butte. Smoke will be visible from the Applegate Valley and possibly Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland.
- Star Gulch, off of Upper Applegate road, near Star Ranger Station. Smoke will be visible from the Applegate Valley.

Prescribed burning reduces fire hazard in the event that a wildfire occurs, and returns managed fire to the landscape, rebuilding fire-resiliency. The area to be burned is monitored before, during and after treatments, with agency officials working through the Oregon Department of Forestry to receive smoke clearance. Other considerations prior to burning include air temperature, wind direction, fuel moisture (the percentage of moisture in the vegetation that will allow it to burn at an acceptable level) and the relative humidity. If any of these conditions are not met, the prescription burn is delayed.

*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 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.*

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