

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3050 NE Third Street • Prineville, Oregon 97754 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville>

For Immediate Release:
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LaPine Basin Thinning and Fuels Reduction Planned

La Pine, Ore. — The Prineville District BLM will begin work on four projects to thin the forest and reduce hazardous fuels in the La Pine Basin this winter, and continue in phases over the next two years.

Contracts have been awarded to local operators to thin crowded and diseased forested areas to create vegetative buffers to reduce risk of fire adjacent to major roads, utility lines, and private property. The projects are listed below:

- **By-Way Project:** 2,500 acres of thinning scheduled to begin in January 2010. This project begins three miles south of La Pine and continues for six miles along both sides of Highway 31. The project will also treat areas near or adjacent to Beal, Howard and Darlene Roads, and the Sun Forest, Split Rail, Antelope Meadows and Old Howard Estates subdivisions.
- **Babb Project:** 350 acres of thinning scheduled to begin in March 2010. This project is located seven miles south of La Pine and just south of the Antelope Meadows subdivision. Activities, including chip truck hauling, will occur along the Old Stagecoach (Michael) Road and Beal Road.
- **La Pine State Park:** 246 acres of thinning (chainsaw only) scheduled to begin in spring of 2010. This project is located within the eastern portion of the park, west of the Deschutes River, and one-half mile west of Foster Road and the Deschutes River Recreation Homesites subdivision.
- **Foster Road Project:** 162 acres of prescribed broadcast burning scheduled for the spring of 2010. This project was mechanically thinned in 2008. The location is east of Foster Road and the Deschutes River Recreation Homesites subdivision, and south of the State Rec Road.

The public should be aware of local intermittent noise, dust, smoke, and equipment traffic associated with these projects. Signs will be posted on major roads at project locations. For technical information, contact Steve Castillo, BLM Forester, at (541) 416-6765, or Dennis Fiore, BLM Fuels Specialist, at (541) 416-6698. Additional information about the BLM's fuels program is available online at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/fire/hazard.php>

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The BLM manages more land -- 253 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.

BLM
Prineville District Office

