

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management Office of Communications

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Pile Burning Update for Prineville Bureau of Land Management & Deschutes National Forest

CENTRAL OREGON—Several hand pile burning projects associated with hazardous fuels reduction efforts on public lands will continue through the late fall and early winter season. Most of the projects are expected to take several weeks total to complete, with work being completed on an intermittent basis as weather conditions allow. Burning may continue into late December, however, no burning will occur during the holidays. Fuels specialists will start work on burning grapple and landing piles after hand pile projects are completed.

La Pine/Sunriver

Fuels specialists from the Prineville Bureau of Land Management, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and La Pine State Park, will begin burning 300 acres of hand piles that were created as a result of a fuels reduction project in the vicinity of La Pine. The project is part of the Upper Deschutes River Coalition Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and the Great La Pine CWPP, created in cooperation with Project Wildfire, Deschutes County, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Deschutes National Forest, the Prineville Bureau of Land Management, and others. The project area is located approximately seven miles northwest of La Pine near La Pine State Park.

Smoke generated by the burning will be visible from many locations near La Pine, including La Pine State Park, South Century Drive & State Rec Road. Ignitions are scheduled to begin today at mid-morning.

Fuels specialists have completed 400 acres of the 450-acre “Cross” project on Forest Service-administered lands east of Newberry Estates in La Pine. Cross is a hazardous fuels project associated with the Greater La Pine CWPP. When the Cross project is complete, work will begin on the “Cone”, “Bon” and “Eb” projects. The 150-acre “Cone” project is approximately 20 miles east of La Pine near Forest Road 2230. The “Bon and “Eb” projects total 200 acres in size and are located approximately 10 miles southeast of Sunriver. These three pile burning projects follow up the thinning and hand piling work completed by contractors funded through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

La Pine/Sunriver

Fuels specialists from the Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District are continuing with work on the “Myst” project, which consists of five areas totaling 529 acres. To date, 50 acres of the project have been completed; dry and windy conditions have been hampering efforts. The project areas are located in Sunriver near Spring River Road and approximately three miles northwest of La Pine near Foster Road. These fuel reduction projects are part of the Upper Deschutes River Coalition CWPP and are partially funded by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

Sisters

Sisters Ranger District & Oregon Department of Forestry fuels specialists recently completed 800 acres of pile burning along Highway 242. Burning will begin today on a 330-acre pile burning project off Highway 20 approximately three miles south of Sisters near the rodeo grounds. Ignitions are scheduled to begin mid-morning.

Crescent

Forest Service fuels specialists have completed 1,800 acres of the 2,000-acre pile burning scattered across the district. Specialists are currently working to complete the remaining 200 acres of piles near Wickiup Reservoir. When this project is complete, work will begin on 130-acres of grapple piles located in the southwest portion of the district as conditions allow.

If smoke impacts roadways, motorists are urged to slow down, proceed with caution and turn headlights on. Nearby residents are advised to keep doors and windows closed to avoid smoke intrusions into structures and vehicles.

The Forest Service adheres to the guidelines of the Oregon Department of Forestry’s Smoke Management Plan prior to conducting controlled burns and pile burning.