

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 23, 2009

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BLM
Prineville District Office

Pile Burning Planned for La Pine State Park

La Pine—Prineville District Bureau of Land Management fire specialists are planning to begin a three week pile burning project in La Pine State Park this Monday, January 26, 2009. The piles will be scattered over a 10-acre area approximately one mile southwest of Bates Butte along the Fall River.

The project, called a “swamper burn” involves a multi-stage process of dragging, piling and burning some of the woody debris leftover from a thinning project that was designed to improve a secondary evacuation route on the north end of the park. Other material from the thinning project may be available for firewood or chips. This project is a collaboration of efforts between the BLM and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department designed to improve the safety of visitors using the park.

No public use restrictions are anticipated for La Pine State Park; however, the BLM fuels specialists and Oregon Parks and Recreation Staff will monitor the piles while they are burning. If smoke drifts onto roadways in La Pine State Park or nearby subdivisions, motorists should reduce speeds and turn on headlights.

The BLM will follow policies outlined in the Oregon Department of Forestry smoke management plan, which governs controlled burns, and attempts to minimize impacts to visibility and public health.

The burn may be postponed to a later date if weather conditions are unfavorable. For more information, contact Prineville District, BLM at (541) 416-6700.

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The Bureau of Land Management manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The Bureau of Land Management’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, and cultural resources on the public lands.

