

CENTRAL OREGON FIRE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

2010 HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROGRAM

RIVERS DIVISION

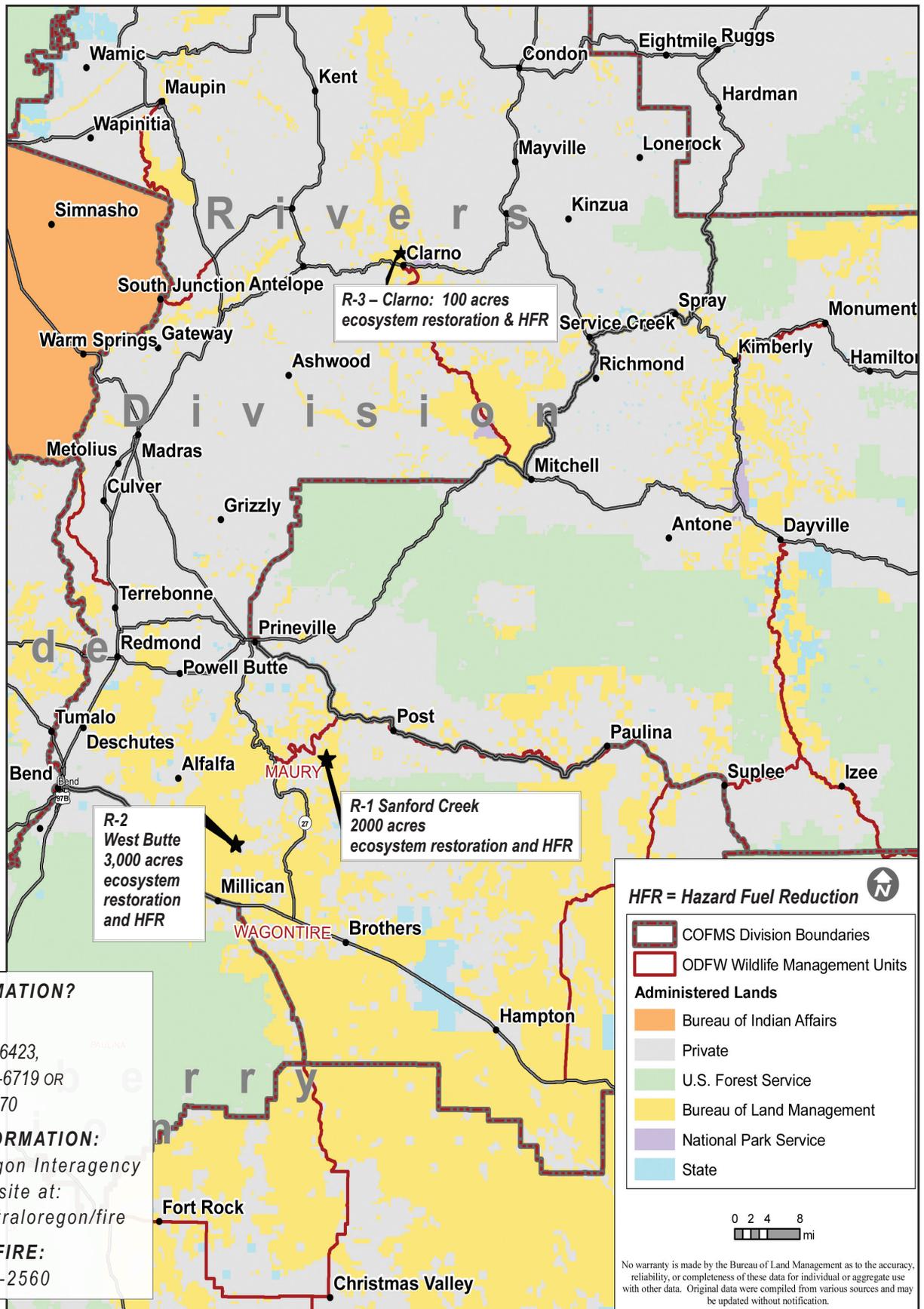
PRINEVILLE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT,
 OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST, & CROOKED RIVER NATIONAL GRASSLAND



Three prescribed fire projects (totaling 5,000+ acres) are planned for spring and fall of 2010. The schedule includes map number, name/area and project acres. Dates have not been included as it is difficult to pinpoint when fuel conditions & weather will allow these activities to occur. However, most prescribed burning occurs from March - May and Sept - Dec.

Due to the number of burn piles present, not all pile locations are individually depicted on the maps. Please note that piles that have cured (turned completely red) by late fall are planned for ignition under appropriate weather conditions between late fall and early spring.

Safety - Hunters and other forest visitors entering recently burned areas are at risk of injury by being hit by fire-weakened timber, or burned by stepping in a stump hole.





Who plans hazard fuel reduction projects?

Hazard fuel reduction projects reduce the unnatural build-up of fuel in the forest. Fuels can be *natural fuels*, (forest vegetation or debris) *activity fuels* (debris left over from woodcutters or forest thinning projects) or *ladder fuels* (small trees or brush that carry a ground fire up into the canopy).

Resource specialists and fire managers from the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon State Department of Forestry work closely together planning, implementing and monitoring hazard fuel reduction projects. Project locations and treatment methods are chosen carefully, with specific objectives. Land management agencies coordinate prescribed burning with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to ensure compliance with national clean air standards.

Why burn?

- ★ **Reduce** hazard fuels which lessens wildfire intensity making them easier to control and reduces suppression costs.
- ★ **Maintain and improve** forest health by recycling nutrients, decreasing competition for water and sunlight and increasing resistance to bugs and disease.
- ★ **Improve** wildlife habitat by increasing food supplies such as native grasses, forbs and shrubs.

What about the smoke it creates?

Smoke from prescribed burning is a short-term effect of restoring healthy forests and is a mere fraction of the amount of smoke generated by high-intensity wildfires.

Most smoke from prescribed fires disperses quickly. Fire managers monitor the smoke from their burns, and try to avoid burning during poor smoke dispersal conditions.

The goal is always to have prescribed fires burn quickly, cleanly, under control and for smoke to be carried up and away from the area. Conditions are watched constantly and many times, scheduled burns are cancelled at the last minute if things aren't right for meeting that goal. Weather and winds are unpredictable. There is always a chance smoke will end up in the valleys.

Does prescribed fire protect private property?

Private property may benefit from a nearby hazard fuels reduction project, though there are no guarantees. Reducing forest fuels reduces flame lengths, increasing the ability of firefighters to safely protect a home. Prescribed fire also reduces potential for long-distance spotting from a wildfire. Homeowners can increase the chances of their homes surviving wildfire by creating *survivable* space around their property. For more information visit: www.firefree.org.

How long will it take to reduce hazardous fuels?

It is safe to assume that prescribed burning and mechanical treatments such as thinning and mowing will continue to be important tools for improving and maintaining forest and grassland health for years to come. With the assistance of new administrative processes and funding made available through legislation such as the Healthy Forests Restoration Act and the Healthy Forest Initiative, land management agencies will continually look for ways to accomplish the work to be done.

Recovery Funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

Since March of 2009, the Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests have been awarded approximately \$11 million in Recovery funds for hazardous fuels reduction projects; as of March 2010, a total of 13,000 acres have been treated utilizing these funds. In July of 2009, the Prineville Bureau of Land Management was awarded \$183,000 in Recovery funds to treat 1,900 acres for biomass utilization. These Recovery-funded projects are in addition to the projects described on the front of this flyer. The Recovery hazardous fuels reduction work has been accomplished through the hiring of several local/national contract crews and youth crews based out of Central Oregon.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.