

# NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

1103 N. Fancher • Spokane Valley, WA 99212 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane>

For release: May 2, 2014

Contact: Richard Parrish (509) 536-1200  
Release No: OR130-FY2014-12

## Pierre Lake Prescribed Fire and Public Meeting

*Spokane, Wash.* – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Spokane District Office will be hosting a public meeting at 6:00pm, May 8, 2014 to answer questions about an upcoming prescribed fire in the Pierre Lake area of Stevens County, Washington. The meeting will be located at the Stevens County Fire District 8 station at 3585 Sand Creek Road, Kettle Falls, WA 99141. The prescribed fires will occur on two burning days between May 12 to June 13. Approximately 126 acres of public land will be burned, and smoke may be visible on active ignition days and subsequent days following. The overall goal of this burn is to reduce the risk to homes, structures, and infrastructure by reducing fire hazard and intensity.

This project location has been a fire protection focus area for several different agencies and homeowners groups for several years. The Washington Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service are in the process of conducting fuels reduction treatments in the vicinity; this project would be located adjacent to those treatments and has been designed to complement the objectives of those projects. The project area has been identified by the Stevens County Community Wildfire Protection Plan to be within the Lower Kettle River Strategic Planning Area #2.

Prescribed fire is used to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, and increase public and firefighter safety. It also helps meet a variety of resource management objectives: reducing hazardous fuels (surface or ladder fuels), and restoring habitats and ecosystems. To restore fire to its natural role in forests and rangelands, trained experts employ low intensity prescribed fire in the spring and fall, when weather conditions minimize escape and allow for controlled burning.

The legal descriptions of the prescribed fire areas are Township 40 North, Range 36 East, Section 35. The project area is located approximately 3.5 miles north of the town of Orient, Washington. The unit is bordered by Washington Department of Natural Resources lands and various private landowners.

Additional information about the BLM's fire program is available online at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/fire/index.php>

-BLM-

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 multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2012, activities on public lands generated \$4.6 billion in revenue, much of which was shared with the States where the activities occurred. In addition, public lands contributed more than \$112 billion to the U.S. economy and helped support more than 500,000 jobs.

**Come join the Oregon/Washington BLM on our Social Media sites for the latest on outdoor opportunities, videos of your public lands, spectacular photos, and a whole lot more!**

 [www.facebook.com/blmoregon](http://www.facebook.com/blmoregon)  [www.youtube.com/user/blmoregon](http://www.youtube.com/user/blmoregon)  
 [www.flickr.com/photos/blmoregon](http://www.flickr.com/photos/blmoregon)  [www.twitter.com/blmoregon](http://www.twitter.com/blmoregon)

