

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM Vale District to Implement Fall/Winter Prescribed Burning Program

VALE, OREGON- When cooler temperatures and scattered rain showers return and have improved range and forest conditions, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Vale District will begin implementing its fall/winter prescribed burning program. Prescribed fire is an essential and beneficial part of the Vale District's program of work.

Fuels treatment prescriptions, which are developed well in advance of the actual project, identify the weather parameters and conditions that are needed before a prescribed burn can be done. Wind speed and direction, temperatures, relative humidity, and fuels moistures are all taken into consideration. When the burn boss determines the conditions outlined in the prescribed fire plan are met, burning can then occur.

Prescribed burning can help reduce the damaging effects of high intensity wildfires. Burning under favorable conditions clears out vegetation, such as small trees, shrubs, and brush which can eventually fuel a much larger fire. Fuel treatment areas can also be used to help successfully suppress high intensity fire.

Fires are also necessary to the ecosystem. Plants and animals that grow and live in eastern Oregon developed with fire in their environment, making fire a necessary element in their habitat. The impacts of fire can vary dramatically with severity and intensity. The late fall prescribed burning conditions are designed to have low to moderate intensity which produces beneficial post-fire effects.

Vale District Prescribed Fire treatment areas for the fall/winter of 2010-2011 may include:

Trail Creek - 50 acres-Timber under burn Rx fire, located in Trail Creek 12 miles south of Baker City, OR

Rattlesnake Creek - 400 acres-Jackpot juniper burning, located 15 miles north of Hereford, OR

Woods Gulch - 260 acres-Jackpot juniper burning, located 5 miles north of Durkee, OR

Wolf Creek - 42 acres-Pile burning, located 10 miles east of North Powder, OR

Juniper Point - 150 acres-Jackpot juniper burning, located 20 miles south of Jordan Valley, OR

Woodtick - 100 acres-Timber under burning Rx fire, located 10 miles northwest of Unity, OR

For further information, contact the BLM Vale District Office at (541) 473-3144 or (541) 473-6295 or visit their website at: www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale. For more information on the proposed prescribed fire areas, visit: <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/fire/prescribedburns/>

-BLM-

About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – more than 245 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.

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