

# NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

100 Oregon Street • Vale, Oregon 97918 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale>

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For Immediate Release

September 18, 2009

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Vale District Office

## Vale District Implements Fall/Winter Prescribed Burning Program

**VALE, OREGON-** Friday September 18, 2009, Vale District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Cooler temperatures and shorter days will start to improve range and forest conditions allowing fuel specialist to consider implementation of the Vale District's fall prescribed burning program.

Prescribed burning requires certain weather conditions; wind speed and direction, temperatures, relative humidity, and fuels moistures are all taken into consideration. When these values fit into the parameters outlined in the prescribed fire plan, burning can then occur. The prescribed fire plans are developed in advance of the actual project implementation. .

All prescribed burning activities comply with federal, state, and local air quality and smoke dispersal guidelines to reduce the impacts of smoke on local residents.

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 late fall prescribed burning conditions are designed to have low to moderate fire intensity which produces beneficial post-fire effects.

Vale District Prescribed Fire treatment areas for the fall/winter of 2009-2010 may include:

**Trail Creek** - 200 acres landscape prescribed fire located in Trail Creek of north of Dooley Mountain, approximately 10 miles south of Baker City, OR.

**Lower Cove** - 147 acres of landscape prescribed fire located in Mill Creek drainage, approximately 4 miles southeast of Cove, OR.

**Kirby** – 116 acres of pile burning located in Alder Creek drainage, approximately 14 miles southeast of Baker City, OR.

**Rock Creek** - 55 acres of pile burning in the Rock Creek drainage, located approximately 13 miles northwest of Baker City, OR.

**Juniper Point**-50 acres of jackpot burning located in Owyhee River drainage, approximately 18 miles south of Jordan Valley, OR.



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**Wolf Creek** – 20 acres of pile burning in the Wolf Creek drainage, approximately 20 miles northwest of Baker City, Oregon.

**Ladd Canyon** – 60 acres of pile burning in the Ladd Canyon drainage, approximately 11 miles west of Union, Oregon.

**Sumpter** – 12 acres of pile burning in the Cracker Creek drainage, approximately 1 miles northwest of Sumpter, Oregon.

**Blue Poker** – 100 acres of jackpot burning in the Auburn Creek drainage, approximately 7 miles southwest of Baker City, Oregon.

**Upper Pole Creek** – 380 acres of jackpot burning in the Pole Creek drainage, approximately 9 miles northeast of Juntura, Oregon.

**Rattlesnake** – 406 acres of pile and jackpot burning in the Rattlesnake Creek drainage, approximately 5 miles north of Hereford, Oregon.

**Owyhee River Corridor** – 290 acres tumbleweed burning along the Owyhee River

For additional information the following persons may be contacted, Ron McEwen (541) 473-6354 or Jason Simmons (541) 473-6336. Or visit the District website at [www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale).

-BLM-

The BLM manages more land – 258 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.

