

**Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests,
and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications**

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For immediate release: April 11, 2008

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Controlled Burns Planned Near Sisters

SISTERS—Deschutes National Forest fuel specialists, in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry, are planning to take advantage of spring weather conditions to conduct a series of controlled burns near Sisters tomorrow. Both burns are designed to reintroduce fire to improve ecological conditions in the ponderosa pine stands around the Sisters area.

The first burns, Units 131 and 138, will be located south of Highway 20 between the McDonalds on the west side of the city of Sisters and the Tollgate subdivision. The goal is to underburn using low-intensity fire on approximately 117 acres around 10:30 a.m.

No road closures are expected at this time; however, flaggers will be in place in case smoke impacts visibility along Highway 20. In addition, a message has been posted on tripcheck.com regarding possible delays due to smoke on the highway. If smoke drifts onto roadways, motorists should reduce speeds and turn on headlights.

The second burn, Unit 44, is a 33-acre underburn located less than 2 miles south of Sisters on Forest Service Road 16. This burn is also planned for mid-morning. No road closures are expected for this burn, and road signs will be placed along FS Road 16 to inform motorists about the burn.

For more information on Units 131 & 138 contact Dave Robertson (541) 408-1363; and, for more information on the Unit 44 burn, contact Jinny Pitman (541) 480-7243. A

All controlled burns are weather-dependent and completed in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry smoke management plan. Fire specialists will postpone burning if winds are not forecasted to disperse smoke to less-populated areas. The burn may also be postponed to a later date if weather conditions are unfavorable.

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