

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

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For immediate release

**“Fire Transfer” Affects Work
on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests**

Bend—Forest Supervisors John Allen and Jeff Walter are making some tough decisions about the Forest work that will not be accomplished as planned this fiscal year, due to the “fire transfer” of funds to aid national wildland fire suppression efforts.

The Forest Service is working hard to reduce suppression costs. However, the agency must protect life and property from wildfire, and do so within the funds available. This affects Forest Service operations such as national forest programs, capital improvement projects, land acquisitions and partnership grants.

At the Deschutes National Forest, the total amount of fire transfer funds in fiscal year 2008 is \$2,240,871. This includes congressionally allocated funding for Forest facilities, roads, trails, supplies, critical fire rehabilitation, recreation projects, vegetation thinning and stewardship projects, wildlife habitat work, and fuels reduction work. Major areas of work within the total fund transfer include hazardous fuels reduction (\$555,000), recreation and trail work (\$131,000), and road and facility maintenance (\$172,000). Salary savings due to fire duty and job vacancies amounts to approximately \$324,000.

At the Ochoco National Forest, the total amount is \$360,000. This includes delaying projects such as the decommissioning of the old Ochoco Ranger Station, a culvert at Trout Creek, work on the Rager Ranger Station water system, thinning of trees at Paulina Ranger District and the Crooked River Grassland, and anticipated salary savings.

“Fire transfer broadly touches upon most of the programs of work we conduct in the Forest Service,” says John Allen. “We are doing our best to cover projected suppression costs and still accomplish critical work.”