

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Pacific  
Northwest Region

## **Umatilla National Forest**

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### **Granite Area Fuel Break Project to Cause Delays on FS Road 10**

Mechanical fuel treatments will be starting soon for the Granite Area Fuel Break Project. Travelers along Forest Service Road 10, near the Fremont Powerhouse, may experience occasional delays of up to 20 minutes during weekdays, Monday through Friday, from 5:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. The project is expected to begin the week of July 14<sup>th</sup> and continue throughout the summer.

According to Scott McDonald, Assistant Fire Management Officer for the North Fork John Day Ranger District, "The purpose of this project is to create a fuel break along open roads to aid in fire prevention and control. Forest stands will be commercially and non-commercially thinned to reduce ladder fuels and break-up the overstory canopy. Surface fuels will also be treated." McDonald also added, "This change in stand composition will result in a change to potential fire behavior, reducing rates of spread and intensities to levels that could be safely managed by suppression resources."

Some of the woody material that will be removed will be sold, primarily as pulp or hog fuel. Other large wood will be placed on the newly restored floodplains along Clear Creek. The total treated area is approximately 7 miles long and covers 480 acres.

For more information on the Granite Fuel Break Project or about the expected travel delay, please contact Scott McDonald at the North Fork John Day Ranger District at 541-427-5332.

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