

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

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For immediate release: May 7, 2008

Contact: Virginia Gibbons 541/416-6647

**Controlled Burn Scheduled Adjacent to Newberry Estates
Subdivision in La Pine**

LA PINE—Prineville Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fuels specialists, in cooperation with Deschutes National Forest fuels specialists and local fire protection agencies, is planning a 40-acre controlled burn on public lands in La Pine adjacent to Newberry Estates on Friday, May 9. This controlled burn project is identified as one of the priority areas for hazardous fuels reduction in the Greater La Pine Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Numerous members of the La Pine community contributed to the development of the CWPP, in cooperation with Prineville BLM and Deschutes National Forest, Deschutes County and Oregon Department of Forestry.

The objective of this controlled burn is to reduce the threat of wildfires by reducing hazardous fuels, while re-introducing the natural role of fire back into the ponderosa pine ecosystem. The 40-acre project area is located in north La Pine east of Gordy's Truck Stop. The burning operation is expected to take one day to complete, with crews remaining in the area over the weekend to complete mop up and patrol.

Motorists should reduce speed, turn on head lights and proceed with caution when traveling through smoke-impacted areas along Highway 97 or other roads in the area.

Smoke may settle in project areas with cooler air in the evening and morning hours. Newberry Estates Subdivision residents are advised to close windows and doors to keep any potential smoke out of structures.

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 for adequate smoke dispersal. For additional information, contact Dennis Fiore at (541) 416-6698 or (541) 383-4003.

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