

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and
Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications
Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

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Snow Delays Opening of Firewood Areas

Bend—Heavy snow levels will delay the opening of firewood cutting areas on the Deschutes National Forest this year until May 12, 2008. The snowpack in the Cascades is 150% of normal this year, and lingering cold temperatures are holding back the annual melt-off.

Many forest roads remain closed, and can be easily damaged by traffic when they do become saturated with the melting snow.

Trees that have blown down in winter storms are difficult to find in deep snow, and the wood is still too wet to burn.

Forest officials hope that with nature's cooperation, the roads and firewood areas will be open by May 12th. The annual "Firewood Synopsis" will be published by that date, illustrating the areas where the public will have access to collect firewood.