

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

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon

For immediate release: May 5, 2008

Contact: Virginia Gibbons 541/416-6647

Controlled Burns Planned Near Crescent and Sisters

CENTRAL OREGON—Deschutes National Forest fuels specialists, in cooperation with the Walker Range Patrol Association, is planning 200 acres of controlled burns near Crescent for the week of May 5. The burn project is located approximately ten miles south of Crescent and one mile east of Highway 97.

In an effort to minimize any potential smoke impacts to Hwy 97, fuels specialists will light the burn in 50-acre blocks. Signs will be posted to warn motorists of potential smoke intrusions along the highway and flaggers will be utilized if necessary. Motorists should reduce speed, turn on head lights and proceed with caution when traveling through smoke-impacted areas.

In 1997, this burn project area was thinned and “under burned” (a low intensity burn that consumes surface fuels on the forest floor) to open up crowded and unhealthy stands of trees. This is a second, or “maintenance” under burn conducted to further reduce the accumulation of potentially hazardous fuels. The project is scheduled to begin on Tuesday and is expected to take 3-4 days, dependent upon weather. For more information, contact Kevin Carlson at (541) 433-3214.

In Sisters, Deschutes National Forest fuels specialists will work in cooperation with Oregon Department of Forestry and Willamette National Forest to conduct a 120-acre burn adjacent to the Crossroads Subdivision. This burn is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 6 and is expected to take 1-2 days to complete. Weather may require a change in location of the planned burn. For more information, contact Jinny Pittman at (541) 549-7644.

The objective of both controlled burns is to reduce the threat of wildfires and to re-introduce the natural role of fire back into the ponderosa pine ecosystem.

Smoke may settle in project areas with cooler air in the evening and morning hours. Crossroads 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.

-End-