

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

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Contact: Trevor Miller
(541) 549-7638
Sue Olson
(541) 383-5561

Sisters Ranger District Fall Pile Burning to Begin Soon

SISTERS, OR— With the recent moisture, the Sisters Ranger District is preparing to begin fall pile burning activities. Pile burning is part of a series of strategic treatments intended to restore fire's natural role in forested ecotypes and to minimize the potential for wildland fires to spread from national forest lands to private property.

Pile burning is used as a means to consume fuels associated with mechanical hazardous fuels reduction (such as chainsaw and machine thinning). At the same time, "slash" piles associated with numerous logging activities will be ignited under brush disposal requirements. Pile burning differs from prescribed underburning in that ignitions are focused only on the actual pile and not the surrounding forest floor. Cool moist weather conditions are best to limit pile "creep" and associated smoke production.

There are approximately 700 acres of hand pile burning planned for this fall. In addition, numerous landing piles associated with 800 acres of logging activities are slated for ignitions. The pile burning will occur in and around the following areas:

The hand pile burn locations are:

- McCahe Small Tree Thinning project near Highway 242 and FS road 1028
- Highway 20 and the FS road 1012
- Corner of Highway 20 and George McAllister road
- Areas off FS road 1120
- Miscellaneous debris piles off the 1216 road west of Camp Sherman

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The locations of logging related pile burning are:

- GW Fire Salvage (FS road 1028)
- Black Crater Salvage (vicinity of Whispering Pine Campground)
- Highway 242 Salvage (McKenzie Pass and Lava Camp Lake)
- Little Salvage (Roaring Springs area off 1230 road)
- Miscellaneous debris piles in Scout Lake area

The public can expect to see active pile burning in the above mentioned areas beginning in the near future to continue through early January of 2009. All pile units are checked on a daily basis and burning activities will be delayed if weather conditions are not acceptable. Smoke impacts associated with pile burning are expected to be low for surrounding communities and roads, however some drift smoke can be expected in the late evenings and early mornings.

Fire specialists will give nearby residents advance notice of pile burning operations if it is requested. Contact Trevor Miller, Sisters Ranger District Fuels Technician, at (541) 549-7638 for further information or to be placed on a notification list.