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Burns Interagency Fire Zone • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/fire>

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BURNS INTERAGENCY FIRE ZONE PREPARES FOR SPRING PRESCRIBED BURNING

BURNS, Oregon – Residents of Harney County can soon expect occasional smoky skies and increased traffic on forest and county roads as the Burns Interagency Fire Zone prepares for spring prescribed burning. The Burns Interagency Fire Zone does a number of prescribed fire projects annually to reduce fuel loading and the risk of catastrophic large wildfires, increase forage for livestock and wildlife, and improve wildlife habitat.

This spring, projects slated for late April through May include: a 400 acre underburn near Rattlesnake Creek just west of Forest Road 28; 500 acres of green stripping in the Five Creeks project area on the north end of Steens Mountain in preparation for a fall broadcast burn of 18,000 acres; a 57 acre underburn just south of Emigrant Creek at the junction of Forest Roads 43 and 47; and several hundred acres in the Badger Unit between Yellowjacket Lake and Myrtle Lookout.

Fire Management Officer Steve Morefield said, “These projects are important in our efforts to develop more fire resilient and healthier ecosystems. In the long term, completing these projects will allow for lower intensity fires that are more in tune with the historic natural occurrence of fire in this area.”

Burning will occur as weather and fuel moisture conditions allow. Avoid project areas during active burning if at all possible.

For further information on prescribed burning in Harney County, contact Prescribed Fire Managers Dan Ridenour at (541) 573-4508, or Sean Rothwell at (541) 573-4535.

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