

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region  
Umatilla National Forest

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## **Pomeroy Ranger District Implements Hazardous Tree Removal Project in the Columbia Complex Fire Area. Travelers May Encounter Delays and Increased Logging Traffic.**

Hazardous tree removal on National Forest lands is expected to begin this week in the Columbia Complex Fire area, approximately 16 miles south of Dayton. "Our objective with the Skyline Timber Sale is to remove hazardous trees killed by the 2006 wildfire and other identified unstable trees that represent an occupational health and safety act (OSHA) threat to the public," said Mike Piazza, Sale Administrator for the Pomeroy Ranger District.

Delays up to 30 minutes are possible during tree felling and loading operations. "The trees identified for removal are unstable due to weakened roots, leaning, or physical defects that pose a hazard to forest travelers," said Piazza.

The public can expect to encounter increased log truck traffic and equipment in the road when traveling Forest Road 46 (Kendall Skyline Road) 4600300, 4600301, 4608000, and Eckler Mountain Road.

Tree removal and hauling operations could continue through December 1, when snowmobile trail grooming for the winter will begin. If the project can't be completed this season, operations could resume in the summer of 2009.

For more information on the Skyline Timber Sale, please contact Mike Piazza at the Pomeroy Ranger District Office, 509-843-1891.

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