

News Release

Umatilla National Forest

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Section of Forest Road 5226 Temporarily Closed

A section of Forest Service Road (FSR) 5226 will be closed to public access beginning next week to allow for hazardous fuel reduction activities. FSR 5226 is located on the Umatilla National Forest's North Fork John Day Ranger District, approximately 17 miles east of Ukiah, Oregon. The road will be closed from its junction with FSR 5226-060 to its junction with FSR 5226-075.

"Forest roads are traditionally inaccessible to vehicle travel this time of year because of the snow load," said Scott McDonald, Supervisory Forestry Technician, who estimates there are 1-2 feet of snow currently in the area. "The traffic we're seeing right now is predominately snowmobile traffic and we need to get the word out about the closure and our concern for public safety," said McDonald. Contractors will be using several pieces of large cable yarding logging equipment to remove dead trees and large woody material.

Activities are scheduled to begin Monday, February 2, 2009 and are expected to continue through the middle of the month. The road closure will be signed and will remain in effect until the project is completed.

Hazardous fuels reduction projects are designed to restore forest health and reduce the threat of wildfire to national forest resources, adjacent private lands, cities and communities. "Our objective is to remove the abundant fuel that has built up along this section of road," said McDonald. These activities are part of the Weasel Stewardship Project areas.

For more information on this project, please contact Scott McDonald at the North Fork John Day Ranger District (541) 427-3231.

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