

News Release

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Public Meeting Set to Discuss Fuels Reduction Strategies in the Potamus Watershed Area

The Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest is hosting a public meeting on March 31, to discuss an upcoming assessment for identifying fuels reduction and forest stand density projects in the Potamus Watershed Area southeast of Heppner, Oregon.

“We feel it’s important to discuss and coordinate wildfire risk reduction strategies across land ownerships,” said Tom Mafera, Heppner District Ranger. “So, prior to developing any project proposals, we want to visit with those interested about specific interests and project ideas.”

In 2001, the Morrow County *Community Wildfire Protection Plan* (CWPP) identified the Penland Lake Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) area as a priority for fuels reduction projects to lessen the impact of wildfire on lives, property, and the landscape.

The meeting is scheduled for **6:00 p.m. on March 31** at the Heppner Ranger District Office, 117 South Main Street, Heppner, OR. Presentations will include:

- Role of fire in the ecosystem
 - Fire Regime and Tree Species Adaptation
- History of fire and insect disturbance in the Potamus Watershed Area
- Current fuel conditions and expected fire behavior
- Wildfire risks
- Private land fire protection
- Morrow County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

For more information about the public meeting or Fuels Reduction assessment, please contact Brian Spradlin (Fuels Specialist) at the Heppner Ranger District (541) 676-2127.