

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and
Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications
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**Snow Project Draft Environmental Analysis
Open for Public Comment**

BEND—The 30-day public comment period opens today for the Draft Environmental Analysis (EA) of the Snow Fuels Reduction and Vegetation Management Project of the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District.

This project is located along the Cascade Lakes Highway between Elk Lake and Crane Prairie Reservoir. The area is dominated by dead and dying lodgepole pine due to beetle infestations since the 1980's. All activities proposed by this project are located outside of Late Successional Reserves, inventoried Roadless Areas and Wilderness.

The Snow Project seeks to strategically reduce hazardous fuels in order to prevent catastrophic wildfires in this area. It also addresses the health of the forest for old growth dependent wildlife species.

This project also meets many of the goals of the East West Deschutes County Community Wildfire Protection Plan to reduce hazards around evacuation routes and reduce fuels in areas surrounding lakes and reservoirs.

“People enjoy many kinds of recreation in this part of the Deschutes National Forest, “ says Project Leader Pete Powers. “This project aims to reduce wildfire risk and address forest health and public safety.”