

**Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests,
and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications**

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Controlled Burns Planned for Deschutes National Forest

Central Oregon—Deschutes National Forest fuel specialists are planning to conduct several prescribed burns on the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District south of Bend during the month of May.

In the Aspen unit, fuels specialists are planning to begin a series of four burns covering a 691-acre area tomorrow. The burns are located approximately 40 miles south of Bend and 30 miles east of La Pine near the southeast corner of the Deschutes National Forest. The objective is to use handlines and low-intensity fire to reduce the risk of stand replacement wildfire to mature ponderosa pine.

Smoke may be visible to people recreating near the area; however, the risk of smoke impacting populated areas during implementation of these prescribed fire plans is low.

In addition, fuels specialists are putting out an advance notification for a series of underburns 6-8 miles southeast of Bend in the Fuzzy unit. These burns are weather dependent; however, the intention at this time is to conduct these underburns over a 2-day period around the middle of May.

These treatments, totaling approximately 1,200 acres, are designed to improve the chances of ponderosa pine surviving a future wildfire event, and to reduce surface fuels to levels where future wildfires burn primarily on the ground allowing firefighters to successfully control them under most weather conditions.

The Fuzzy units are planned to be ignited by a helicopter equipped with an aerial ignition device. The smoke columns will be highly visible from the Bend area and are expected to be similar to the prescribed burns that occurred in the same area in May of 2007, which triggered hundreds of calls to Deschutes 911. Additional press releases will be sent out prior to the day of the burn.

All controlled burns are weather-dependent and completed in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry smoke management plan. Fire specialists will postpone burning if conditions become unfavorable or winds are not forecasted to disperse smoke to less-populated areas.

For more information on the burns south of Bend, contact John Erwert at the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District at (541) 383-4000.

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