

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

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**For immediate release: May 2, 2008**

**Contact: Virginia Gibbons 541/416-6647**

## **Controlled Burn Planned Near Wickiup Reservoir**

*La Pine*—Deschutes National Forest fuel specialists, in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry, are planning two controlled burns located approximately three miles NE of Wickiup Reservoir and five miles NW of La Pine. The two controlled burns are 77 and 114 acres in size and are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 4 and Monday, May 5, dependent upon weather.

The objective of the burns is to reduce the threat of wildfires and to reintroduce the natural role of fire back into the ponderosa pine ecosystem. This area was previously thinned to open up crowded stands of trees. After thinning, crews piled the debris and burned the piles. Now, fuels specialists will conduct an “underburn” (which consumes surface fuels on the forest floor) to further reduce the accumulation of fuels that can feed future wildfires.

Drivers on Forest Road 44 should reduce speed, turn on head lights and proceed with caution when traveling through the project area and any potentially smoke-impacted areas.

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 winds are not forecasted to disperse smoke to the less-populated areas.

Smoke may settle with cooler air in the evening and morning hours, even with favorable winds, so nearby residents in Ponderosa Pine Estates, Wild River Estates and Haner Park should close windows and doors to keep smoke out of structures.

The burn may be postponed to a later date if weather conditions are unfavorable. This controlled burn is expected to be completed within 1-2 day. For more information, contact Tim Bisby, Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District, at (541) 410-0203.

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