

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

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

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For immediate release: May 12, 2008

Contact: Virginia Gibbons 541/416-6647

Controlled Burn Planned Near Crescent

CENTRAL OREGON—Deschutes National Forest fuels specialists, in cooperation with the Walker Range Patrol Association, is planning another 200-acre controlled burn near Crescent on May 13. The burn project area is located approximately ten miles south of Crescent and 1/4 mile east of Highway 97.

Smoke may be visible on Hwy 97 in the late evening/early morning hours as a result of the burn. Signs will be posted to warn motorists of potential smoke intrusions along the highway and flaggers and pilot cars will be utilized as necessary between milepost 189 and 194. Motorists should reduce speed, turn on head lights and proceed with caution when traveling through smoke-impacted areas.

In 1997, this burn project area was thinned and “under burned” (a low intensity burn that consumes surface fuels on the forest floor) to open up crowded and unhealthy stands of trees. This is a second, or “maintenance” under burn conducted to further reduce the accumulation of potentially hazardous fuels.

The project is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, May 12 at 11:00 am and is expected to take one day for burning and 1-2 days of mop up, dependent upon weather. For more information, contact Kevin Carlson at (541) 433-3214.

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 for adequate smoke dispersal.

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