

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

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Contact: Virginia Gibbons 541/416-6647**

**Large Controlled Burn Planned for Tuesday  
SE Of Bend on the Deschutes National Forest**

*BEND*—A considerable smoke column will be visible from Bend starting around 11 am tomorrow due to a large controlled burn scheduled on the Deschutes National Forest. The “Fuzzy” burn project, which consists of two 600-acre burn blocks totaling approximately 1200 acres in size, will occur in the Coyote Butte area approximately seven miles SE of Bend. One 600-acre burn block will be ignited on Tuesday, May 13, and a second 600-acre block is tentatively scheduled to be lit sometime next week.

Fire managers will burn a control line on the ground prior to utilizing a helicopter equipped with an aerial ignition device to light the burn. Cooperating agencies include the Deschutes National Forest, Prineville Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, Bend Fire Department and Sunriver Fire Department.

“Utilizing controlled fire is an important tool for reducing hazardous fuels across the forest landscape,” said Central Oregon Fire Management Services Staff Officer Chris Hoff. “Burning larger, versus smaller, areas of the forest is most effective in checking the spread of future large wildfires. It is also more cost effective (per acre) when larger areas of forest are treated at one time,” added Hoff.

**CLOSURES**

Coyote Butte, a popular shooting area on the Deschutes National Forest, will be utilized as a helispot for the helicopter operations. For public safety reasons, Coyote Butte will be closed to the public during the controlled burn. OHV Trail #20 and OHV Trail #24 of the East Fort Rock Off-Highway Vehicle trail system will also be closed during burning operations and will be reopened when it is safe to do so. The OHV trail closures may be in effect for several days following the burn.

**WHY CONDUCT CONTROLLED BURNS?**

The Fuzzy controlled burn is part of the Fuzzy Fuels Treatment Plan, which was written in response to the Skeleton Fire and Evans West Fires of 1996. The 22,000-acre Skeleton Fire burned with great intensity on the Deschutes National Forest, crossing over onto private land and burning 19 homes in the Sundance Subdivision. Wild land fire

managers recognized the need to develop a proactive treatment plan to reduce the threat of future wildfires.

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Under the Fuzzy fuels treatment plan, the combination of controlled burn treatment areas across the landscape is intended to break up the continuity of the fuels by creating areas with relatively light ground fuels. Strategic placement of these and future treatments create conditions where fire spread and intensity is reduced and fires are easier to bring under control. Due to the fuels reduction that occurs as a result of the burn treatments, chances of survival for existing stands of ponderosa pine is increased if wildfires subsequently burn through the area.

#### CONTROLLED BURN TREATMENTS HELP SAVE HOMES

A similar prescribed burn treatment (also part of the Fuzzy Plan and located adjacent to Forest Road 1810) was credited with deterring the advance of the 18 Fire on its eastern flank in July of 2003. The 18 Fire burned 3,809 acres southeast of Bend and during that incident, the Deschutes County Sheriff's Department made contingency plans to evacuate the High Desert Museum, and the subdivisions at Woodside Ranch and Lost Tracks. The intensity of the fire was greatly reduced when it hit the "boundary edge" of a previous prescribed burn treatment. No evacuations were necessary and no homes or structures were lost.

#### WEATHER & SMOKE MANAGEMENT IS CAREFULLY MONITORED

All controlled burns are weather-dependent and completed with approval from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Smoke Management Plan; the burn may be postponed if winds are not forecasted to disperse smoke to less-populated areas. Fire managers are currently monitoring weather and fuels conditions and are in contact with National Weather Service Forecasters and ODF Smoke Management in an effort to pinpoint when suitable burning conditions and favorable smoke dispersion is in alignment before the burning operation commences.

#### WHAT CAN RESIDENTS DO TO PREPARE?

Due to cool night time temperatures, inversions and smoke pooling is possible for those areas in the vicinity of the burns. It is recommended that residences in the vicinity of Arnold Market Road and Sundance Subdivision close their doors and windows in the evening and morning hours.

Please DO NOT call Deschutes County 911 when you see the smoke generated by the Fuzzy controlled burn. This burn is not a wildfire and is being carefully controlled and monitored by experienced fire managers. Firefighting resources will be located on

scene. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding while we accomplish a very important land management objective designed to reduce the threat of future wildfires in the SE Bend area.

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