

# News Release

## Umatilla National Forest

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**January 17, 2009**

### **Public Meeting to Discuss Fuels Reduction Strategies in the Tollgate Area**

The Walla Walla Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest will host a public meeting on January 22, to discuss the upcoming assessment for identifying fuels reduction and forest stand density projects in the Tollgate area east of Weston, Oregon.

In 2005, the Umatilla County *Community Wildfire Protection Plan* (CWPP) identified the Upper State Highway 204/Tollgate Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) area as a priority for fuels reduction projects to lessen the impact of wildfire on lives, property, and the landscape.

“This gathering is the third in a series of public meetings where we’ve asked individuals to share information about their areas of concerns and project ideas in an open, collaborative process,” said Mike Rassbach, Walla Walla District Ranger. Past meetings were held in September and November of 2008.

The meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 22, at the Tollgate Trail Finders Club House (62369 Highway 204.) The public is invited to attend.

For more information about the public meeting or Fuels Reduction assessment, please contact Kimpton Cooper, District Planner at the Walla Walla Ranger District Office (509) 522-6009.

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