

# News Release

## Umatilla National Forest

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**News Contact: Joani Bosworth, Umatilla National Forest (541) 278-3722**

**May 1, 2009**

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

The Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest will host a public meeting on Tuesday, May 5, to discuss the upcoming assessment for identifying fuels reduction and forest stand density projects in the Potamus Watershed Area south of Heppner, Oregon.

In 2001, the Morrow County *Community Wildfire Protection Plan* (CWPP) identified the Penland Lake 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 a follow-up to a public meeting held in late March where we asked individuals if they would be interested in sharing information about the project in an open, collaborative process,” said Tom Mafera, Heppner District Ranger. “We feel it’s important to discuss and coordinate wildfire risk reduction strategies across land ownerships prior to the developing any project proposals,” said Mafera

The meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on May 5 at the Heppner District Office, 117 South Main Street, Heppner, OR. The public is invited to attend.

For more information about the public meeting or fuels reduction assessment, please contact Brian Spradlin (Fuels Specialist) at the Heppner Ranger District (541) 676-2127.

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