

# BLM News

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Contact: Tara Wilson  
(541) 573-4400

Bureau of Land Management  
Burns District 28910 Hwy 20 West Hines, OR 97738 (541) 573-4400 [www.or.blm.gov/Burns](http://www.or.blm.gov/Burns)

**October 13, 2004**

## **F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E**

### **PRESCRIBED BURNING OCCURING THROUGHOUT HARNEY COUNTY**

The Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ) will be conducting several prescribed burns over the next 6 to 12 days as conditions allow. Approximately 2,400 acres within five prescribed burn units on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District of the United States Forest Service (USFS) are slated for treatment. The largest, a 1,000-acre burn, will occur at Blackrock in the southern end of Silvies Valley. Other projects include 700, 500, and 250-acre burns at Rimrock near Allison Guard Station and at Badger, located approximately 30 miles north of Burns.

Actual days of ignition for the fall burning projects will be determined by weather and fuel moisture conditions, and will occur by ground or aerial methods when conditions are favorable. A combination of firefighters from the USFS and Bureau of Land Management will conduct the burns with engines, hand crews, and a helicopter when needed for support. There may be noticeable smoke and increased traffic around project areas, and the public is asked to be aware of the activity and avoid the worksites as much as possible.

The BIFZ conducts a number of prescribed burns each year to reduce fuel loading and the risk of catastrophic large wildfires, to increase forage for livestock and wildlife, and to improve wildlife habitat, among others.

For further information on BIFZ prescribed burning, contact Ken Higle, Prescribed Fire Manager, at (541) 573-4319, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.