

CENTRAL OREGON FIRE MANAGEMENT SERVICES, Prairie Division

Prineville Bureau of Land Management, Ochoco National Forest & Crooked River National Grassland

2004 Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program

Most prescribed burning happens April-June on the Ochoco National Forest and September-December on the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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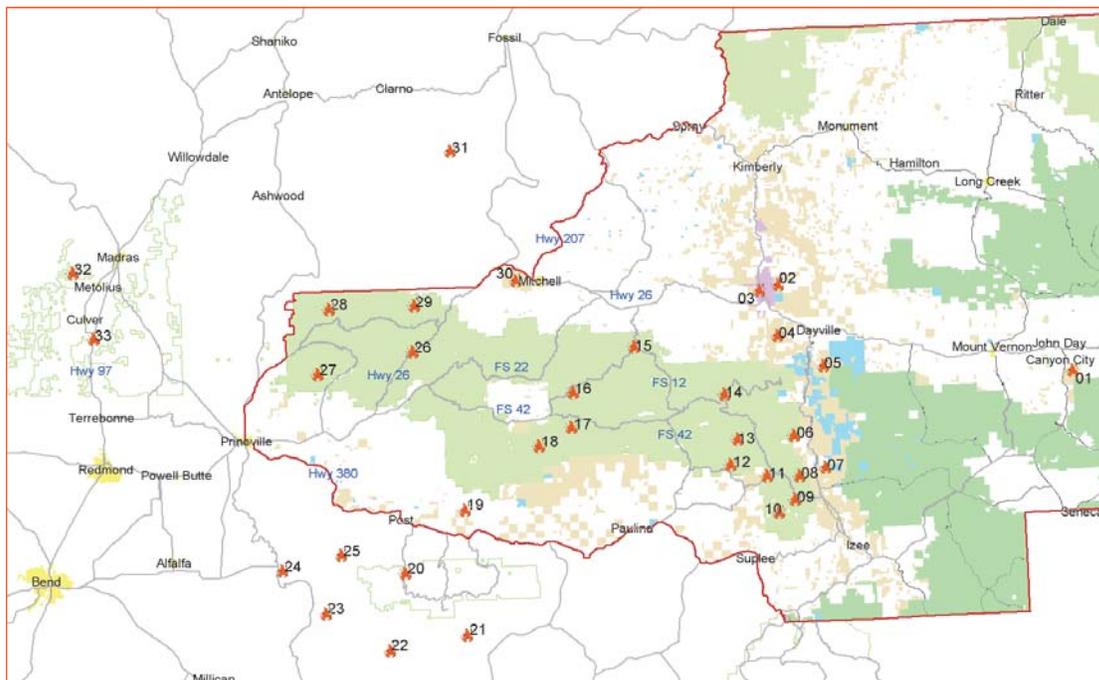
GENERAL FIRE INFORMATION

visit the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center Website at:

www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/fire



Central Oregon Fire Management Services



Thirty-three fuels reduction projects are scheduled for the spring and fall of 2004. The schedule below includes the map number, agency, name/area, size of the project and how they will be accomplished (via prescribed burning or mechanical methods). Dates have not been included. It is difficult to pinpoint when weather and fuels conditions will allow for these activities to occur.

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| 01 –BLM: Little Canyon Mountain , handpiles, fuels reduction | 13 –FS: TNT , 200 acres, hazardous fuels disposal, Tamarack Creek | 24 –BLM: Taylor Butte , mechanical treatment |
| 02 –BLM: Windy Point , 3500 acres, burn in partnership with NPS | 14 –FS: Black Bear , 400 acres, fire re-introduction, Bear Skull area | 25 –BLM: Windy Point , 100 acres, ecosystem restoration, Bear Creek |
| 03 –BLM: Rock Creek , 1000 acres, ecosystem restoration, project canceled at this time | 15 –FS: Fryton , 1000 acres, fuels reduction and site preparation for planting, Fry Creek area | 26 –FS: Bandit , 2500 acres, wildland urban interface fire risk reduction, Marks Cr. and Ochoco Cr |
| 04 –BLM: Battle Creek , mechanical treatment | 16 –FS: Zane , 600 acres, natural fuels reduction, Zane Spring area | 27 –FS: Mill Creek , 400 acres, wildland urban interface fire hazard reduction, Mills Creek |
| 05 –BLM: Smoky Creek , mechanical treatment | 17 –FS: Lower Biscuit/Biscuit Root , 1500 acres, fire hazard reduction, Donnelly Creek area | 28 –FS: Trout , 1500 acres, fire re-introduction, Trout Creek area |
| 06 –FS: Elbow Gulch , 200 acres, brush disposal, canceled at this time | 18 –FS: Fox Canyon/Rough , 1500 acres, wildlife habitat enhancement, N. Fork Fox Canyon Cr. area | 29 –FS: Cougar , 800 acres, fire hazard reduction, Cougar Creek area |
| 07 –BLM: South Fork , mechanical treatment | 19 –BLM: Pine Stubs , 600 acres, Juniper reduction in partnership with Nature Conservancy | 30 –BLM: Mitchell , mechanical treatment |
| 08 –FS: Hard Corner , 1500 acres, hazardous fuels disposal, Hardscrabble Ridge area | 20 –FS: Sherwood , 1500 acres, wildlife habitat enhancement, Sherwood Creek area | 31 –FS: Rattlesnake , 7500 acres, juniper reduction and ecosystem restoration |
| 09 –FS: Bird , 340 acres, natural fuels reduction, Spur Butte area | 21 –BLM: OSU Paired Waters , mechanical treatment | 32 –FS: Round , 1000 acres, wildland urban interface fire hazard reduction, Round Butte area |
| 10 –FS: Sunflower , 4500 acres, fire re-introduction, Sunflower Creek area | 22 –BLM: Upper Bear Creek , mechanical treatment | 33 –FS: Juniper Butte , 230 acres, hazardous fuels disposal, Juniper Butte area |
| 11 –FS: Bronco , 120 acres, fire hazard reduction, Bronco Creek area | 23 –BLM: West Butte , mechanical treatment | |
| 12 –FS: Admin , Rager Ranger Station, 60 acres, wildland urban interface fire hazard reduction | | |

FS - Forest Service
BLM - Bureau of Land Management

Who plans hazard fuel reduction projects?

Hazard fuel reduction projects reduce the unnatural build-up of fuel in the forest. Fuels can be *natural fuels*, forest vegetation or debris, *activity fuels*, debris left over from woodcutters or forest thinning projects or *ladder fuels*, small trees or brush that carry a ground fire up into the canopy.

Resource specialists and fire managers from the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon State Department of Forestry work closely together planning, implementing and monitoring hazard fuel reduction projects. Project locations and treatment methods are chosen carefully, with specific objectives. Land management agencies coordinate prescribed burning with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to ensure compliance with national clean air standards.

Why burn?

✦ **Reduce** hazard fuels which lessens wildfire intensity making them easier to control and reduces suppression costs.

✦ **Maintain** and improve forest health by recycling nutrients, decreasing competition for water and sunlight and increasing resistance to bugs and disease.

✦ **Improve** wildlife habitat by increasing food supplies such as native grasses, forbs and shrubs.

What about the smoke it creates?

Smoke from prescribed burning is a short-term effect of restoring healthy forests and is a fraction of the amount of smoke generated by high-intensity wildfires.

Most smoke from prescribed fires disperses quickly. Fire managers monitor the smoke from their burns, and try to

avoid burning during poor smoke dispersal conditions.

The goal is always to have prescribed fires burn

quickly, cleanly, under control and for smoke to be carried up and away from the area. Conditions are watched constantly and many times, scheduled burns are cancelled at the last minute if things aren't right for meeting that goal. Weather and winds are unpredictable and there is always a chance that smoke will end up in the valleys.



Dead and down trees and other vegetation covering the forest floor provide fuel for wildfires.



Mill Creek prescribed burn removed hazardous fuels, reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfire.



Often the window of opportunity when fuels and weather conditions are just right, is small. Burning can occur at seemingly unexpected times.

Watch-out for hazards
Smoke from prescribed burns may be along roads, especially late evening and early morning when cool air causes the smoke to settle. Be cautious when visiting a forested area after a prescribed burn.

Does prescribed fire protect private property?

Private property may benefit from a nearby hazard fuels reduction project, though there are no guarantees. Reducing forest fuels reduces flame lengths, increasing the ability of firefighters to safely protect a home. Prescribed fire also reduces potential for long-distance spotting from a wildfire.

Homeowners can increase the chances of their homes surviving wildfire by creating *survivable* space around their property. For more information visit:

www.firefree.org.

How many years will it take to reduce hazardous fuels?

It is safe to assume that prescribed burning and mechanical treatments such as thinning and mowing will continue to be important tools for improving and maintaining forest and grassland health for years to come. With the assistance of new administrative processes and funding made available through legislation such as the Healthy Forests Restoration Act and the Healthy Forest Initiative, land management agencies will continually look for ways to accomplish the work to be done.

