

# News Release

## Umatilla National Forest

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**May 27, 2009**

### **Field Trip Offered to View Potamus Fuels Reduction Project Area**

The Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest will host a public field trip to the Penland Lake Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and Potamus Fuels Reduction Project Area on Monday June 8, 2009. The field trip is part of the collaborative effort for the upcoming assessment to identify fuels reduction and forest stand density projects.

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.

The purpose of the trip is to generate discussion on topics including defensible space strategies, evacuation routes, broader landscape level treatment design, and other resource interests. A variety of stops are planned on the field trip including past mechanical fuels treatment, hazardous fuel breaks, and prescribed fire.

"I'm looking forward to getting out on the ground and receiving feedback from our group of collaborators and the public on management options for the Potamus Project Area," said Tom Mafera, District Ranger.

In order to coordinate transportation, please RSVP to Brian Spradlin at (541) 676-2127 or ([bspradlin@fs.fed.us](mailto:bspradlin@fs.fed.us)) by June 3. The group will leave the Heppner Ranger District office on June 8, at 9:00 AM or you can meet-up with the group at Penland Lake Campground at 10:00 AM. Participants should pack a lunch and be prepared to walk short distances by wearing long pants, sturdy footwear and appropriate clothing for the weather. The tour will end at 3:00 PM and participants can expect to be back to the Heppner District Office by 4:00 PM.

For more information about the field trip, please contact Brian Spradlin (Fuels Specialist) at the Heppner Ranger District (541) 676-2127.