



# NEWS

## From the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

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<http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf>



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Prescribed burning begins on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest**

VANCOUVER, Wash. - Prescribed burning projects are planned to begin this fall on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest as low temperatures continue. As part of the hazardous fuels reduction projects, fire personnel have been monitoring weather conditions daily since the onset of cooler conditions across the area.

Prescribed or "controlled" burning is only used by fire managers when certain criteria, such as wind speed and direction, temperatures, relative humidity, and moisture in trees and brush are all within identified parameters.

Fall, winter and spring weather often provide better conditions for prescribed burning. Over the next few months, the public may see smoke in various parts of the forest. These projects will have some short-term impacts on air quality levels, but air quality levels will comply with all state and federal air quality regulations.

"The cooler fall weather allows us to safely remove trees and other vegetation through prescribed burning that have accumulated over time," said Gifford Pinchot National Forest Fire Staff Officer Deb Roy. "The removal is beneficial to the forest's ecosystem and is a preventative measure in reducing the threat of wildfires and achieving other vegetation management goals.

Any burning activity will be accomplished during weather conditions that would minimize impacts of smoke on communities. All burning is done within parameters set forth in an approved burn plan. The prescribed burning program is usually completed in the spring and fall seasons.

Areas that are planned for prescribed burning:

**Mt. Adams Ranger District:** 10-15 miles north of Trout Lake, Wash., about 20 miles northwest of Carson, Wash., and 10 miles west of Willard, Wash.

**Cowlitz Valley Ranger District:** 20 miles south of Randle, Wash., 10 miles north of Randle, Wash., 10 miles northwest of Packwood, Wash., and 15 miles northeast of Packwood, Wash.

**Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument:** off Forest Road 32 (eastside of Mount St. Helens) and 10 miles southeast of Pine Creek, Wash.

Specific project location information is available online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/fire/index.shtml>. Additionally, prescribed fire announcements will be placed at local Ranger Stations and post offices a few days prior to implementation.

For updated information on the implementation process, please call the local District offices:

Mt. Adams Ranger District - (509) 395-3400.

Cowlitz Valley Ranger District - (360) 497-1100.

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument - (360) 449-7800.

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