



MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST
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NEWS RELEASE



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FLAGTAIL FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
NOW AVAILABLE

John Day, OR – The Flagtail Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is now available for public review, announced Mike Montgomery, Blue Mountain District Ranger. Linda Goodman, Regional Forester, granted emergency situation status for this project. This status authorizes the immediate implementation of the project when the final Record of Decision is published in the Blue Mountain Eagle (expected on April 7). However, it does not do away with the appeal process. This determination was granted because the risk of significant value and volume loss from delay during the appeal period would cause an estimated million-dollar loss to the government.

“The Flagtail Interdisciplinary Team and many other Forest employees are to be commended for the hard work that went into getting this FEIS completed and available to the public,” said Montgomery. “The implementation of this project is in line with the goals and objectives of the National Fire Plan and Healthy Forest Restoration Act. The implementation of the strategy in Alternative 5, the preferred alternative, will reduce future fuel loadings as well as meet other identified needs, such as capturing the economical value of killed and damaged trees and reducing the effects of roads on wildlife habitat and water quality.”

The Flagtail Fire burned approximately 8,100 acres; 7,120 acres were on National Forest land and 1,080 acres were on private land. The Flagtail Fire Recovery project area consists of the 7,120 acres that burned within the Malheur National Forest on the Blue Mountain Ranger District within the Upper Silvies watershed, approximately 25 miles southwest of John Day; 6,180 acres were forested and the remaining 940 acres were woodlands and non-forest.

The Flagtail FEIS is available for review at the John Day Public Library and Forest Service offices in John Day, Prairie City and Hines and at www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur.

For more information contact Linda Batten, Flagtail Team Leader at (541)575-3000.

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