

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Office of Communications

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News and Information
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Prescribed Burns Scheduled Near Sisters and Sunriver

CENTRAL OREGON –Deschutes National Forest fuels specialists are continuing with prescribed burning projects, as several of the units are in the appropriate “prescription window” with the warmer weather. The burn projects will occur today, Thursday and Friday of this week and are located near Sisters and south of Bend in the vicinity of Sunriver.

Sisters Area Burn

Sisters Ranger District fuels technicians are conducting a 125-acre prescribed burn on the Deschutes National Forest **adjacent to Highway 20 at the Forest Road 14 junction (main road to Camp Sherman). This burn project is located seven miles northwest of Sisters in the vicinity of Black Butte.**

The burn objective is to reintroduce the role of fire into a fire-adapted ecosystem and to reduce hazardous fuels. Signs alerting motorists of the burn are posted on Highway 20 and flaggers are in place. Motorists are advised to slow down and drive with caution when proceeding through the area.

The project will take one day to complete with mop up and patrol immediately following ignitions that are **scheduled to begin at approximately 11:30 a.m. today.** Fuels technicians will postpone burning if winds are not forecasted for adequate smoke dispersal.

South of Bend/Sunriver Area Burns

The “**Hazy**” burn consists of two units; one unit is 93 acres in size and the other is 90 acres in size for a total of 183 acres. **The Hazy burn project is located approximately 12 and 14 miles south of Bend, respectively, and approximately 6 miles east of Sunriver.**

The burn objective is to reduce hazardous fuels and lessen the intensity of future wildfires. Deschutes River Woods subdivision residents may experience some residual smoke in the area.

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The burn will take one to two days to complete with an approximate ignition time of 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 21 and Friday, May 22. Patrols and mop up guidelines will be assigned daily. Light to moderate smoke may be visible from Highway 97 for motorists traveling southbound. Residual smoke is expected to be present in the area through the weekend.

The “**Klak**” burn is 246 acres in size and is located along Forest Service 4220 Road and is **four miles southwest of Sunriver and approximately 18 miles southwest of Bend.**

The burn objective is to reduce hazardous fuels and lessen the intensity of future wildfires. The burn unit is located within the Upper Deschutes River Coalition Community Wildfire Protection Plan. La Pine Fire Department may assist with the burn, depending on availability.

River Meadow Subdivision (one mile to the east) and Forest Lane subdivision (one mile to the south) may experience residual smoke in the area for several days. Smoke may also impact Forest Service Roads 42 and 4220; signs will be posted.

This burn will take one day to complete with an approximate ignition time of 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 21. Mop up will follow post ignition and a patrol plan will be developed.

For further information on the Sisters area burn, contact Trevor Miller at (541) 419-1354; for the Hazy burn, contact Michael P. Simmons at (541) 280-5447; for the Klak burn, contact Shannon Evans at (541) 383-4706.

General Information About Prescribed Burns

Fuels treatment project maps showing all of the potential treatments for public lands in the spring and fall seasons of 2009 are available on the Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon> Click on “Fire & Aviation” in the left column and you’ll see the Newberry (Bend, La Pine) , Cascades (Sisters, Sunriver and Crescent), Prairie (east of Prineville) and Rivers (Clarno, Mitchell and southeast of Prineville) Division maps at the top.

When approaching areas where prescribed burns are being conducted, motorists should reduce speed, turn on head lights and proceed with caution when traveling through smoke-impacted areas. Potentially affected subdivision residents are advised to close doors and windows to prevent smoke from entering dwellings. Forest visitors should avoid traveling on foot through burn project areas, as any trees weakened by the burn may fall and burning stump holes can cause significant burns to those who step into them.

Prescribed burning is implemented during optimal weather conditions at times that favor the best smoke dispersal possible, in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry Smoke Management Program. The weather determines the appropriate time for burning; all prescribed burn projects are tentatively scheduled and subject to change.