

# NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest  
765 S. Main Street, Colville, WA 99114, [www.fs.usda.gov/colville](http://www.fs.usda.gov/colville)

Contact: Franklin Pemberton, 509.684.7177

March 6, 2016

## *Spring Prescribed Burning Starting Soon*

**Colville, WA** – Colville National Forest Fire Managers are keeping a close eye on the weather and moisture conditions on the Colville National Forest. If moisture levels and expected smoke dispersion patterns are within Washington State smoke management standards, crews could begin the spring prescribed burning season as early as April and continue into June.

Residents of the Colville Valley and those traveling near the Columbia River and on Highway 20 west (Sherman Pass scenic byway) may see smoke west of Lake Roosevelt near Paradise Peak in the South Fork of Sherman Creek drainage. This 800 acre prescribed fire will be highly visible from Kettle Falls, WA and those traveling over Sherman Pass or recreating on Lake Roosevelt. This prescribed fire is part of the on-going Paradise Peak Project which is located approximately 10 miles west of Kettle Falls. Motorists and residents along Highway 395 north may see smoke in the Summit Mountain area northeast of Orient. This 1,000 acre prescribed fire is part of the Summit-Pierre Fuels Reduction Project. The objective for both of these prescribed fires is to reduce the accumulation of dense undergrowth to reduce fire danger and to improve wildlife and big game habitat. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation supports these prescribed fire objectives and provides grant funding to the Forest Service to help fund these efforts.

Residents and motorists along Aladdin Road north of Colville can expect to see smoke on the east side of Rogers Mountain and in the Meadow Creek drainage.

Residents and visitors in the Pend Oreille Valley and those traveling up Highway 20 can expect to see smoke on both sides of the valley from Furport, north to lone.

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Crews will be treating (depending on conditions) 800 acres with helicopter and/or hand based ignition in the Hanlon Timber Sale area near the East Branch of Leclerc Creek area as well as 350 acres in the Blue Ruby Timber Sale area along the first few miles of the Ruby Creek Road. There will also be prescribed burning activities spread throughout the valley in the following areas; 125 acres along Flowery Trail/Middle Fork area, 400 acres in the Misery Lake Timber sale north of Misery Lake, 100 acres near the Geophysical observatory, and 350 acres in the Blue Ruby Timber sale area along the first few miles of Ruby Creek Road . The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation supports these prescribed fire objectives and provides grant funding to the Forest Service to help fund these efforts.

Residents in Republic can expect to see smoke east of Curlew Lake, from Herron Creek Road and Lambert Creek as well as northwest of Curlew near Vulcan Mountain. North of Republic, smoke may be visible from North Fork Trout Creek area. Smoke will also be visible north of County Highway 602 (Boulder Creek Road) in the Day Creek area and east of Republic in the Karamip area.

Since air quality is a major consideration during prescribed fire operations, crews may suspend burning operation if conditions warrant or if smoke begins to impact local communities. In order to ensure you have the latest information on prescribed fires on the Colville National Forest please contact your local Ranger District.

<b>Three Rivers District</b> 255 West 11th Kettle Falls, WA 99141 509-738-7700	<b>Newport Ranger District</b> 315 North Warren Newport, WA 99156 509-447-7300	<b>Sullivan Lake District</b> 12641 Sullivan Lake Road Metaline Falls, WA 99153 509-446-7500	<b>Republic Ranger District</b> 650 East Delaware Avenue Republic, WA 99166 509-775-7400
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*The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.*



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