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News Release

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Prescribed burning planned on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest

REDDING, Calif., Oct. 4, 2017 -- The Shasta-Trinity National Forest plans to initiate prescribed fire operations this fall as weather patterns shift to cooler temperatures and wetter conditions. Forest specialists will continue to monitor local weather conditions and, as circumstances become favorable, district employees will initiate planned ignitions. Prescribed fire is an important part of forest-wide hazardous fuels reduction efforts.

“As temperatures moderate and humidity levels rise, we can begin safely using prescribed fire in pre-determined situations,” said Forest Assistant Fire Management Officer, Alex McBath. “Conditions must meet certain criteria, including weather and vegetation factors, before we will implement a prescribed fire or burn piles.”

Prescribed fire is a tool that is used to mimic the natural role of fire in the environment, create resilient forests, and to decrease future risk to life, property, and natural resources. The use of fire in the landscape promotes naturally occurring processes that native plants and animals rely upon. It affords opportunity for new growth to take place by removing dead and dying vegetation. At the same time, it decreases the threat posed by future wildfires and improves the resiliency of forest landscapes.

Weather is an essential factor in the planning and implementation of a prescribed fire. Wind speed and direction, temperature, relative humidity and measurable moisture in vegetation are all taken into consideration prior to initiating any burning activities.

Over the next several months the public may see or smell smoke in various parts of the forest from prescribed fire activities. These projects may have some short-term impacts on air quality levels, however, the Forest Service will comply with all Local, State and Federal air quality regulations and coordination with local air quality regulators will take place.

Areas where prescribed fire is planned include:

National Recreation Area (NRA – Shasta Lake area): O'Brien Mtn. near Packers Bay, northeast of Jones Valley between Squaw and Pit arm of Shasta Lake, west of Lakeshore between Charlie Creek and Little Dog Creek, north of Lakeshore along Forest Road, in Lakeshore area proper off of Lakeshore drive and near Antlers Marina and west of Jones Valley in the Silverthorn area.

South Fork Management Unit (SFMU – Wildwood, Platina, and Hayfork area): Stafford Clear Fall and Kelly Mine Road Fuelbreaks: southeast of the community of Hayfork, Sims Reforestation Site Prep and Roadside Fuelbreak Buffer: 10 miles north/northwest of Hyampom. Mud Springs Fuel Break: South of the Trinity Pines Community and north of Highway 36. Harrison Gulch Administrative Compound Prescribed Fire: Harrison

Gulch Ranger District Compound, 3 miles west of Platina, Upper Harrison Gulch Small Project: 4 miles northwest of Platina.

Shasta McCloud Management Unit (SMMU – Mt. Shasta and McCloud areas): McCloud Flats area east and northeast of McCloud, west of Lake Siskiyou, west of Castle Crags State Park and northeast of Mt. Shasta City.

Trinity River Management Unit (TRMU – Big Bar and Weaverville area): Trinity Lake area: North Lake Fuel Reduction hand piles north of KOA in the Trinity Center Ball Park, Long Canyon road side hand piles just west of the estates, East Side Road roadside hand piles along County Road 106 between Clear Creek and Trinity Mountain, Papoose roadside hand piles east of Trinity Dam, Red Flat roadside hand piles west of Trinity Helibase, and Lake Forest Plantations underburn west of Cedar Stock and south of Stuarts Fork. Weaverville area: Five Cent Wildlife Enhancement underburn 2 miles northwest of Weaverville, Blue Rock Road underburn 3 miles northeast of town, and Glennison Gap roadside hand piles west of town on Oregon Mountain. Trinity River area Junction City to Burnt Ranch: Corral Bottom at the junction of Forest Road 4N16 & 4N47 south of Big Bar.

Burning may also occur intermittently at Forest Service Fire Stations, Ranger Stations and Campgrounds.

Specific project location information is available online at www.fs.usda.gov/stnf (select Land & Resources Management) or www.inciweb.org/unit/3. Additionally, prescribed fire announcements will be placed at local Forest Service District Offices.

For updated information regarding prescribed fire, please call local District Offices, open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed Federal Holidays.

- Shasta Lake National Recreation Area (530) 275-1587
- South Fork Management Unit (530) 352-4211
- Shasta-McCloud Management Unit (530) 926-4511
- Trinity River Management Unit (530) 623-2121

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Annual Prescribed Fire Notification – 2017 - 2018

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Annually, fire managers implement prescribed fire projects on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. These projects are part of a fuels management program. Each project has specific objectives involving reduction of hazardous fuels. The forest fuels and vegetation management program analyzes techniques to treat areas using a combination of methods. One treatment option is mechanical thinning and application of prescribed fire to treat the residual slash. Following a mechanical thinning, sites may be prepared for prescribed fire which can involve piling material or constructing firelines (boundaries) for a broadcast fire application. A few other tasks involved in a prescribed fire application include; preparing a prescribed fire plan, assessing fuel conditions, reviewing weather forecasts prior to ignition, and setting up monitoring points. This briefly summarizes some of the prescribed fire aspects in the fire management program.

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest generally conducts prescribed fires between October 1 and June 1. Prescribed burning is usually started after the fall rainy season begins, and extends until the beginning of the summer season.

For answers to commonly asked questions about prescribed fire, refer to the FAQs.

The 2017-2018 fall/winter/spring schedules include the following projects:

Trinity River Management Unit (Weaverville, Big Bar area)

Project Name	Legal Location	Est. Acres	County	Type of Burn	Season
North Lake Fuels	T36N R7W Sec 5,8	56	Trinity	Hand Pile	Fall-Winter-Spring
Long Canyon Roadside	T35N R8W Sec 5,6	5			
Papoose Roadside	T34N R7W Sec 18 T34N R8W Sec 12-16	79			
East Side Road	T36N R6W Sec 30,31 T35N R7W Sec 2, 12, 14, 26, 34 T34N R7W Sec 4	70			
Port Orford Prep	T35N R9W Sec 36	2			
Red Flat Roadside	T34N R9W Sec 24	2			
Glennison Gap Roadside	T34N R10W Sec 27	6			
Hawk Creek Roadside	T4N R8E Sec 20,21	6			
Bowerman Barn Handpiles	T35N R8W Sec 10,15	7			
Lake Forest Plantations	T35N R8W Sec 30 T35N R9W Sec 36 T34N R9W Sec 3,4	44		Understory	
Blue Rock Road	T34N R9W Sec 34	78			
Five Cent Wildlife Enhancement	T34N R9W Sec 30,31	92			
	Total Acres	447			

National Recreation Area Management Unit (Shasta Lake area)

Project Name	Legal Location	Est. Acres	County	Type of Burn	Season	
Silverthorn	T33N R3W S5,6	110 ac	Shasta	Hand Pile	Fall-Winter-Spring	
Sugarloaf	T35N R5W S26	40 ac				
Snowbird	T35N R5W S11,12	5 ac				
Boneyard	T35N R5W S24	5ac				
Lakeshore	T35N R5W S24	5 ac				
Turntable	T34N R4W S27	5 ac		Hand/Machine Piles	Fall-Winter-Spring	
Big Bend	T37N R1E S31	5 ac				
Deadlum	T35N R1W S16	5 ac				
Gregory	T35N R4W S18	10ac				
NCSC	T31N R4W S27	5ac				
Old Man	T36N R5W S35	5 ac				
Doney Creek	T35N R5W S13	5 ac				
Green Creek	T34N R3W S6	1 ac				
Gooseneck Campground	T34N R5W S3	1 ac				
Arbuckle Campground	T34N R2W S34	1 ac				
Response Center	T35N R5W S12	50 ac				
Squaw Arm Debris	T34N R3W S 13, 23, 27, 28	50 ac				
Pit Arm Debris	T33N R3W S34, 35, 36, 31	50 ac				
Sugarloaf Q	T35N R5W S11,12	25 ac				
Ski Island	T34N R4W S31	5 ac				
Centimudi Boat Ramp	T33N R5W S14	5 ac				
Dekkas Rock	T35N R5W SEC20	5 ac				
Green Mountain	T34N R3W All or parts of S 13, 22,	2500				Understory
Northwoods	T34N R4W All or parts of S 20,29,30,31 and 32	637				
Lakehead	T35N R5W S 26, 27, 28, 34, 35	1000				
Total Acreage		4535				

Shasta McCloud Management Unit (Mt. Shasta, McCloud area)

Project Name	Legal Location	Est. Acres	County	Type of Burn	Season
Algoma	T40N R1W S 13, 18, 20, 29, 30	310	Siskiyou	Machine Piles	Fall-Winter
Gunpowder	T42N R2E S 2	2			
Harris	T41N R2E S 1, 2, 3, 6 T42N R2E S 35, 36	166			
Mountain Thin	T40N R4W S 12 T40N R3W S 7, 8, 18	13			
Mudflow	T40N R2W S 27, 29, 32, 34	158			
Porcupine	T40N R2E S 1, 3, 10 T40N R3E S 1, 4-6 T41N R2E S 26, 35, 36 T41N R3E S 19, 20, 31, 32	49		Understory	Fall-Spring
Algoma	T39N R1W S 1, 2 T40N R1W S 35, 36 T40N R1E S 29-32	1,090			
Davis	T41N R2E S 4 T42N R2E S 33, 34	102			
Harris	T41N R1E S 1 T41N R2E S 1, 2 T41N R2E S 6 T42N R1E S 36 T42N R2E S 31, 33, 35, 36	585			
Pilgrim Plantation	T40N R2W S 12, 13, 14, 24	555			
	Total Acres	3030			

South Fork Management Unit (Hayfork, Platina, Hyampom, Trinity Pines area)

Project Name	Legal Location	Est. Acres	County	Type of Burn	Season
Mud Springs Fuelbreak	T29N R12W S 4,5,& 6 T30N R12W S31	177	Trinity	Hand Piles	Fall
Harrison Gulch Administrative Compound Prescribed Fire	T29N R8W S 14	58	Shasta	Understory	Fall
Sims Reforestation	T4N R5E S 24-25 T4N R6E Sections 18-19, 29-32	296	Trinity	Hand/Machine Piles	Fall-Winter-Spring
Sims Roadside & Landlines	T4N R5E S 24-25 T4N R6E Sections 18-19, 29-32	50		Hand Pile	Fall-Winter-Spring
Texas Spider	T28N R11W S 5, 8, 11, 15, 17	n/a		Machine Piles	Fall-Winter-Spring
Upper Harrison Gulch Small Project	T30N R10W S35 T29N R10W S 3	5		Hand Piles	Fall-Winter-Spring
	Total Acres	586			

Questions & Answers

Benefits of Prescribed Burning

Fire in the wildland plays an important role in the natural cycle of life in the forest and it can also quickly become a dangerous hazard situation for a community. A non-catastrophic fire, whether prescribed or natural, has many ecosystem and resource benefits. An unmanageable wildfire threat to a community is a situation we all want to avoid. Prescribed fire is the controlled application of fire to the land to accomplish specific land management goals and can reduce hazardous fuels accumulations that can lead to an unwanted wildfire threat. The benefits include:

- **Reducing hazard fuel build-up:** Dead wood, overcrowded, unhealthy trees, thick layers of pine needles, and continuous decadent brush fields can all contribute to catastrophic wildfires in the forest or adjacent to communities.
- **Prepares the land for new growth:** When excess vegetation or needle layers are burned off, nitrogen and other nutrients are released into the soil and become available for new plants to grow.
- **Helps certain plants/trees germinate:** Many native plant and forest communities have adapted to fire for their germination and growth. Seed contact with bare soil (such as that exposed by a fire) is necessary for some species to naturally regenerate.
- **Naturally thins overcrowded forests:** Historically, natural fire thinned the forests. Thinned forests can recover faster and are more resistant to insect and disease attacks. Currently, many of the mature forests are overcrowded, resulting in a lack of vigor and health.
- **Creates diversity needed by wildlife:** Fire creates a varied land and vegetation pattern that provides diverse habitat for plants and animals. Grazing wildlife benefit from new growth as shrubs produce succulent edible leaves when re-sprouting after a fire.

What is a burn plan?

A burn plan helps ensure that the objectives of the burn are met, as well as addressing safety issues. Land managers determine if the resource would benefit from a specifically prescribed fire application. The burn plan determines the environmental conditions necessary for meeting resource objectives in a safe, effective manner.

The plan includes how and when the fire will be ignited and contained and what resources, such as fire equipment and personnel, must be on site before burning may begin. Air Quality Management District issues project specific burning permits as required. A burn plan must be followed. If unexpected problems arise, a burn operation is shut down.

How is burning accomplished?

Four major methods of burning are utilized on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest:

- **Pile Burning:** Involves burning piles that were generated by hand piling and mechanical piling. The piled fuels are typically generated by some activity like logging slash, thinning, and brush removal.
- **Underburning:** Involves implementing a light-to-moderate intensity fire through an area to reduce surface fuel loading, thin overstocked reproduction, and accomplish natural limbing of lower (near ground level) branches of large trees.
- **Helitorch:** Involves igniting brush fields using a helicopter carrying a 55-gallon drum filled with gelled gasoline. The fuel is ignited with a remote igniter as it is dispensed from the drum.
- **Plastic Sphere Dispenser:** Involves dispensing from a helicopter, plastic (ping-pong sized) balls that start individual fires through a chemical reaction. The balls are injected with reactive substances as they are dispensed from the helicopter.

Who does the burning?

Prescribed fire use is conducted by trained and qualified fire management professionals who have studied and are experienced and skilled in the areas of fire behavior and fire management techniques. These prescribed fire professionals help ensure the safety of the burn crew, nearby residents, and property.

What about the smoke?

Controlling where the smoke will go is an important part of every prescribed burn. Before each burn, land managers look carefully at what they plan to burn and the proximity of houses, roads, and other smoke sensitive sites to the planned burn area. The burn plan is then written to minimize negative impacts of smoke, especially to individuals who may be smoke-sensitive. Smoke, however, is a natural byproduct of fire and some amounts are unavoidable.

Periodic prescribed burns prevent heavy fuel accumulation that would send a larger amount of smoke into the air should an uncontrolled wildfire occur.

When does burning occur?

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest conducts most prescribed fires between October 1 and June 1. Prescribed burning is started after the fall rainy season begins, and extends until the final spring rains are eminent usually in April. The forest burn schedule is established for fuels reduction, wildlife habitat and resource protection priorities.