

Prescribed Fire Information 2014



Branson Prescribed Burn: completed in partnership with National Park Service. The objective of the burn was to control the spread of western juniper and improve wildlife habitat in this spectacular canyon area.

Crook, Wasco, Jefferson & Wheeler Counties Central Oregon Fire Management Service (COFMS)

Deschutes National Forest
(541) 383 - 5300

Ochoco National Forest
(541) 416 - 6500

Crooked River National Grassland
(541) 475 - 9272

Prineville Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
(541) 416 - 6700

To Report a Wildfire, Call 9-1-1

2014 Prescribed Fire Program

Many rangelands in Central Oregon are in an unhealthy condition. More than a century of fire suppression, along with past grazing practices, has led to the expansion of western juniper from rocky outcroppings down into the shrub-steppe habitat of Central Oregon. This expansion not only represent a threat to the homes and pastures that mix with the rangelands, but also leads to a loss of important grasses, shrubs and forbs. In addition to providing food for wildlife, this vegetation helps stabilize the soil and limit erosion.

The desired future for rangelands is to restore thousands of acres to historic conditions that are compatible with frequent wildfires. We can accomplish this by thinning stands of juniper and reintroducing fire where appropriate.



Prineville area in the early 1900s (above, note lack of juniper on slopes). With fire exclusion, much of the current rangeland has become unhealthy due to the expansion of western juniper (right).



Prescribed fires are ignited under precise weather conditions to meet specific resource objectives. Specialists ignite prescribed fires using various ignition patterns when weather conditions are conducive to producing fire behavior that meets these objectives while at the same time protecting water, wildlife habitat, soil, or other resources of concern.

While many prescribed fires are ignited when the weather conditions allow for slow, low-intensity burning, reducing juniper often means burning under conditions more similar to summer. Specialists may spend years planning a prescribed fire and work very closely with wildlife biologists, foresters, hydrologists and other resource managers to ensure the fire meets resource needs.



The Upper Davis Prescribed Burn (above, 2008) was ignited on a hot, summer day in order to achieve the objective of reducing juniper.

Prescribed fires are ignited when predicted weather patterns and fuel conditions will minimize smoke impacts to air quality and public health. Once ignited, units are monitored and patrolled until they are declared out.



High-intensity wildfires, such as the Eyerly Fire (above, 2002) can impact the lives, property and lifestyles of people living or recreating in Central Oregon. Thinning and burning rangelands not only helps reduce the impact of wildfire, but also restores vital shrub-steppe habitat throughout the area (Branson Prescribed Burn, below, one year later).



For more information on fire related happenings in Central Oregon, go to:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/fire/>

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