



**Pacific Northwest Region**  
**Malheur National Forest**  
541-575-3000  
[www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur)

# News Release

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October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## ***Smoke on the Malheur National Forest***

**John Day, Oregon-** Visitors to the Malheur National Forest will notice an increase of smoke in the air, caused by both the Bald Sisters Fire on Prairie City Ranger District and prescribed burn units on the forest.

The Bald Sisters Fire is still actively burning on the Prairie City Ranger District. As the days have warmed fire activity has slightly increased along the north side of Reynolds Creek producing fire growth of roughly 30 acres, causing visible smoke. Fire management officials would like to remind people that there is a closure area still in effect around both the Bald Sisters Fire and the South Fork Complex Fire for public safety, please stay out of these areas.

Prescribed burns have begun on the 18 road corridor on Blue Mountain Ranger District. Crews will move on to the Crawford Unit as early as Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Prairie City Ranger District will begin ignition on the Pine Creek unit as early as Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be in the vicinity of Little Indian Creek. Please note that prescribed burns are weather dependent and the exact dates may vary.

The forest works closely with the Oregon State Smoke Forecast Center in accordance with the Oregon Smoke Management Plan to determine when, where, and how much is burned on a daily basis. Smoke dispersion models looking at volume of smoke, direction of spread and mixing heights are determined prior to each burn.

Burns will also be timed to minimize impacts on hunters. Extreme care is being taken to ensure sensitive plant, wildlife; aquatic organisms and water quality are protected during burning operations.

Signs will be posted as burns are in progress notifying visitors of activity in the area.

When driving in areas of fire activity, please slow down, use head lights, and be cautious of firefighters and equipment in the area.

For further information, contact officials at 541-575-3000. To report a wildfire, call the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at 1-541-575-1321.



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