



**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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## **Pile burning to begin on the north half of the forest**

**JOHN DAY, OR** – The Blue Mountain and Prairie City Ranger Districts will begin pile burning multiple units over the next couple months.

The piles are in areas where fire crews have completed fuels reduction projects, which include thinning and removing lower limbs from trees, and removing dead wood and brush from the forest floor. Pile burning is an effective way of eliminating woody debris, affording benefits to wildlife habitat, while lessening the risk of catastrophic wildfire and risk to firefighters in the event of a large scale fire.

All burning is done within parameters set forth in an approved burn plan. Burning will occur only if weather and air quality conditions allow for safe and successful burning and smoke dispersion. Burning may have some short-term impacts on air-quality levels, but will be accomplished during weather conditions minimizing impacts.

There will be an increase of fire personnel and equipment. When driving in areas of activity, please slow down, use headlights and be cautious of firefighters and equipment.

To report a wildfire or to report theft or damage to government property, call the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at 541-575-1321.

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for the greatest good