

Klamath National Forest

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News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2009

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PRESCRIBED BURNS PLANNED ON KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST

YREKA, Calif., October 1, 2009 — Prescribed burning projects will commence this fall on the Klamath National Forest, as weather and fuel conditions change from the hot and dry conditions of summer. The majority of these burn projects are designed to improve forest health, reduce fuels and help protect communities and forest resources from wildfires.

“Utilizing prescribed fire helps return fire to the ecosystem and reduce hazardous fuels and make our forests more resilient when it experiences a wildfire,” said Fire Management Officer Ken Paul. “Wildfires during fire season can be better managed if the area has been treated with prescribed fire.”

The Goosenest Ranger District in Macdoel, CA will be the first district to begin burning and is planning several prescribed burn projects to be accomplished after October 5th, 2009 when weather permits and conditions are appropriate.

- 940 acres of under burning, 2 miles southeast of Tennant, is planned as part of a continuing research project to assess the effects that different treatments have on improving forest health and timber production.
- 140 acres of under burning, northeast of Grass Lake, is planned to improve forest health and wildlife habitat.
- 1,200 acres of pile burning, near the A-12 road, is planned to reduce hazardous fuels in the wildland urban interface.

On the other side of the Forest, the Happy Camp/Oak Knoll and the Salmon River/Scott River Ranger Districts are also entering the fall prescribed burning season. There are plans to conduct prescribed burning activities in areas including Perkins Creek, China Mountain and Titus Ridge. Approximately 500 acres will be treated as site preparation for reforestation efforts in these areas which were affected by the 2006/2007 wildfires. On the Salmon River/Scott River Ranger District, 1,200 acres of under burning is planned to improve forest health and to reduce activity fuels. Other projects may be accomplished if weather conditions remain favorable for an extended period of time.

Environmental needs and restrictions for the planned burn areas have been analyzed in depth to meet land management objectives and public concerns. Burning operations will be accomplished in accordance with a prescribed burn plan, which states specifically how and when to implement the burn and the expected results.

The burns will be conducted under the specific standards and guidelines of a smoke management plan to minimize the effects of smoke on adjacent communities and the general public. Please exercise caution if you are planning to travel adjacent to the prescribed burns.

Prescribed burning operations are an integral part of implementing the National Fire Plan and are used to help restore ecosystems, while managing the impacts of wildfires on communities and the environment.

Prescribed burning announcements will be placed at local Ranger Stations prior to implementation. Additional information regarding specific projects is available by contacting:

- Marcus Nova, District Fuels Tech, Goosenest Ranger District (530) 398-4391
- Saren Whitney, District Fuels Tech, Happy Camp/Oak Knoll Ranger District (530) 493-2243
- Vicki Stephens, District Fuels Tech, Salmon River/Scott River Ranger District (530) 468-5351

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