Annual Prescribed Fire Notification – 2013 - 2014

v 1.0 – 09-26-2013

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 Q&As beginning on page 6.

The 2013-2014 fall/winter/spring schedules include the following projects:

National Recreation Area Management Unit (Shasta Lake area)

Project Name	Legal Location	Est. Acres	County	Type of Burn	Time of Burn
Silverthorn	T33N R3W S 5,6	65	Shasta	Hand Pile	Fall-Winter-Spring
Oak Grove	T35N R4W S 32	15			
Salt	T35N R4W S 32,33	15			
Antlers	T35N R5W S 12	10			
Sugarloaf	T34N R5W S 26	75		Hand Pile	Fall-Winter-Spring
North	T35N R5W S 3	100		Hand Pile	Fall-Winter-Spring
Snowbird	T35N R5W S 12	10			
Gregory	T35N R4W S 18	10			
Silver	T34N R3W S 33	5			
Big Bend Station	T37N R1E S 31	5			
Hogback	T35N R1W S 17,20	30			
Deadlum	T35N R1W S 16	5			
Turntable	T34N R4W S 27	5			
Packers	T34N R4W S 29-32	20			
Lookout	T35NR5W S 4,9	15			
Boneyard	T35N R5W S 24	10			
Green Mountain	T34N R3W All or parts of S 13, 22,	1500		Underburn	Fall-Spring
Northwoods	T34N R4W All or parts of S 20,29,30,31 and 32	375			
Lakehead	T35N R5W S 27, 28, 34, 35	300			
Bear	T33N R3W S 5,6	100			
	Total Acres	**2670**			

South Fork Management Unit (Hayfork, Platina area)

Project Name	Legal Location	Est. Acres	County	Type of Burn	Time of burn
Beegum Corral TS	T28N R10W S 13-27	113	Tehama	Hand Pile	Fall
Wallow	T2N R7E S 34-36 T1N R7E S 1-3,10-12	173	Trinity	Hand/Machine Pile	Fall-Winter
Kellog Fuelbreak	T31N R12W S 3,4 T32N R12W S 30 T32N R12W S 25,26,35	161		Hand Pile	Fall-Winter-Spring
South Fuel Break	T31N R11W S 27,33,34	54		Hand/Machine Pile	Fall-Winter-Spring
	Total Acres	**501**			

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

Project Name	Legal	Acres	County	Type	Season
Duke	T40N R1W S 9,16,22	43	Siskiyou	Machine Pile	Fall-Winter-Spring
Gunpowder	T42N R2E S 2,3,11-13 T42N R3E S 19	22		Landing Pile	
Lava	T40N R3E S 1,2 T40N R4E S 6	68		Hand Pile	
Lost II Plantation	T42N R1E S 12-14,23-25 T42N R2E S 5-8,18,30-32	44		Landing Pile	
Mountain Thin	T40N R4W S 4,26	9		Landing Pile	
Jefferson Davis	T40N R2E S 17	32		Machine Pile	
Mudflow	T40N R2W S 20-27,30-36 T40N R3W S 25	696		Machine/Landing Pile	
Plymouth	T40N R1W S 2,3,4,5 T41N R1W S 34	73		Hand/Landing Pile	
Castle Lake	T39N R5W S 24	1		Hand Pile	
Trout Creek	T41N R1E S 6 T42N R1E S 31,32	111		Machine/Landing Pile	
Methodist Camp	T39N R5W Sec 13,14	50		Hand Pile	
South Fork	T39N R5W S 5,11 T40N R5W S 34	10		Hand Pile	
Ski Park Hwy	T40N R4W Sec 32	39		Machine Pile	
Hemlock	T42N R1E S 12,13,	77		Machine Pile	
Mayflower	T40N R1W S 7,8,17	34		Machine/Landing Pile	
Davis	T40N R2E S 3- 9,17,18 T41N R2E S 2-14, 16-24,26-28,30-34 T41N R3E S 7,18,19 T42NR2E S 31,32,33,34	2500		Underburn	Fall-Spring
Powder	T42N R2E S5,8,9,15	110		Underburn	
Hemlock	T42N R2E S18,31	515		Underburn	
	Total Acres	**4434**			

Trinity River Management Unit (Weaverville, Big Bar area)

Project Name	Legal	Acres*	County	Type of Burn	Time of Burn
Bonanza King Roads	T37N R7W S 2,4,5,9-12	5	Trinity	Hand Pile	Fall-Winter-Spring
35N24Y/ Long Canyon	T35N R8W S 6,7,18,19,30	5			
Ironside Road	T35N R7E S 6-10	15			
China Gulch	T34N R9W S 27,28,33,34	25			
Sydney Gulch	T33N R10W S 1,2	12			
Weaver Bally	T34N R10W S 1,23	9			
Stoney	T35N R9W S 26,36	5			
Big Mountain	T5N R7E S 13,14,23	5			
Musser Hill Phase I & 2	T34N R9W S 20,28-33	73			
East Branch Phase II	T34N R9W S 20,29	10			
Five Cent Gulch Wildlife Enhancement Burn	T33N R9W S 6 T33N R10W S 1 T34N R9W S 31	70		Underburn	
Bluebird	T34 R11 Sec. 24	6		Broadcast	
Browns Phase I Fuels	T34N R9W S 20,28-33	55		Hand Pile	
Manzanita	T34N R12W S 23,26,27,34,35	5			
Rush	T35N R9W S 34	11			
Blue Rock Road	T34N R9W S 33,34	65			
	Total	**370**			

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 Districts issue 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.