

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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06-25

Contact: **Lynn Ballard / Joanna Wilson**
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Second Open House Scheduled for Raynolds Pass Prescribed Fire Project

Island Park, ID: The Ashton/Island Park Ranger District will be holding a public information meeting on **Thursday, June 15, 2006 from 7 to 9 p.m.** at the Island Park Ranger District office regarding the proposed Raynolds Pass Prescribed Fire Project. This project, in collaboration with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, propose to burn approximately 1,180 acres between the Kelly Creek and Raynolds Pass area of the Henrys Lake Mountains. This informational meeting will be held for the public to come and learn about the proposed project and ask questions.

The meeting will start with a 30-minute Forest Service presentation followed by a question and answers time for the public. The remainder of the time will be an open house format with time to talk to USDA Forest Service and Idaho Department of Fish and Game staff about the project.

The objective of this project is to enhance wildlife habitat in the general vicinity of Raynolds Pass through aspen and mountain brush regeneration. This will be achieved using prescribed fire. The target is to burn the aspen, brush species and encroaching conifer within the three units identified. The Forest Service will not be targeting the older conifer stands within the Raynolds unit. This project, if approved, will occur over a two year time period. Burning will occur during the fall.

This habitat enhancement project is in collaboration with Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Mule Deer Initiative and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Both of these programs encourage aspen enhancement as part of their goals in managing deer and elk habitat.

If you would like a copy of the proposed project, please contact Bryan Aber at 208-558-7301 or download the scoping document at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/>, click on "Raynolds Pass Prescribed Fire Project". For more information about this project, please call the Ashton Office at (208) 652-7442 or the Island Park Office at (208) 558-7301.

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