

News Release

Susanville Interagency Fire Center

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ! Lassen National Forest
Bureau of Land Management ! Lassen Volcanic National Park

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Lassen Volcanic National Park and Lassen National Forest Collaborate on the “Stonehenge” Prescribed Fire

The Hat Creek Ranger District of Lassen National Forest and Lassen Volcanic National Park will begin the “Stonehenge” prescribed fire in October. The fire will include approximately 1,100 acres of National Forest land and 800 acres of National Park land near Manzanita Lake located at the northwest corner of Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Park Superintendent Marilyn H. Parris stated, “Our agencies are working together to protect natural processes that reach across our administrative boundaries.” As a result of this cooperative effort, fire control lines were extended to roads and natural barriers, which has minimized fire line construction and reduced the cost of preparation. “This prescribed fire project will be conducted under the strict guidance of federal fire policy and with maximum concern for safety,” she said.

The two agencies have developed a burn plan which details weather conditions, fire resources needed, and how the project will be conducted. Weather and fuels data is being collected on-site. The agencies will use the data, which is collected hourly, to be sure that the parameters in the burn plan are met.

The burn plan dictates the timing of ignition when winds are favorable for smoke dispersal away from heavily populated areas. Even with good conditions, nighttime inversions can cause smoke to settle into roadways and communities. Deb Romberger, Hat Creek District Ranger said, “We work to minimize smoke impacts as we address the need to reduce high concentrations of forest fuels.” Local residents and visitors are advised to use caution when traveling in the area as smoke may reduce visibility. Smoke monitors will keep managers apprised of conditions during the project. “We appreciate our local community’s tolerance of smoke during the project.” Romberger said.

Historically, this prescribed fire area naturally burned every fifteen years before suppression activities began a century ago. The return of fire through prescription will closely recreate the effect of a natural fire, reduce fuel accumulation, and provide for a high assurance of control. In turn, this will open up brush to create a mosaic of vegetation and habitat for wildlife.

The National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service will issue two more press releases regarding this project. These press releases will be sent out approximately one week prior to ignition and two days prior to ignition.

For more information and /or press packet please contact, the Hat Creek District Ranger, Deb Romberger at (530) 336-5521, or Superintendent Marilyn H. Parris, at (530) 595-4444, extension 5101. For persons with disabilities who may need assistance with this information please contact Leona Roderick at (530) 257-2151 or TDD (530) 252-6624.

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