

*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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## Spring Prescribed Burning Begins

The Lassen National Forest, Bureau of Land Management and the Lassen Volcanic National Park have begun to implement their spring prescribed burning program. "Burning will begin as weather conditions ensure safe and efficient burning conditions," commented Larry Ault, co-center manager for the Susanville Interagency Fire Center (SIFC).

### **Lassen National Forest**

**Eagle Lake Ranger District:** Approximately 4,767 acres of burning will occur. The burning will consist of burning understory, and piles. Burning is planned for five areas: Cal Mountain, two miles east of Poison lake off of Highway 44; Little Ant, one-half mile southwest of Antelope Mountain; Dow, seven and a half miles Northwest of Spalding off of county road 105; Gordon, eight miles northwest of Spalding; and Grays, four miles northwest of the Bogard Work Center.

**Almanor Ranger District:** Approximately 550 acres of burning are planned. Burns are planned for the Betty Sue project, along county road A-21 four miles north of Westwood, this will be 200 acres; at Middle Ridge, southwest of Mineral in Tehama County along Ponderosa Way, this burn will total 100 acre; and, 200 acres will be burned along the Prattville Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ) located two miles southwest of Prattville; and Cherry Hill underburn, two miles east of Jonesville, this will consist of 50 acres.

**Hat Creek Ranger District:** The district has already completed 750 acres of understory burning in the North Coble DFPZ located along the northern portion of Hat Creek Rim, and 1100 acres have been burned in the Pittville DFPZ west of Little Valley. The Hat Creek Ranger District also plans to burn 300 acres in the Willey Ranch area located approximately 25 miles north of Fall Fiver Mills; 1000 acres in the Blacks Ridge DFPZ west of Little Valley; and 1000 acres in the South Station DFPZ located along the southern portion of Hat Creek Rim.

### **Lassen Volcanic National Park**

The park will be working with the Hat Creek Ranger District to burn 1,950 acres near Manzanita Lake, and they will also be burning 700 acres near Butte Lake, this particular project is a re-burn of a previous prescribed burning project.

### **Bureau of Land Management Projects**

**Emerson Project:** Crews will complete a mile-and-a-half-long fuel break project in the Eagleville and Emerson Canyon areas. Piles of juniper and slash created during construction of the fuel break will be burned. The project, started last fall, will help protect private property and residential areas from wildfire and improve wildlife habitat.

**Cedarville Project:** Work is underway on a joint project involving the BLM Surprise Field Office and the Cedarville Volunteer Fire Department. It connects a new fuel break to a BLM fuel break completed in 2002 at the mouth of Cedar Canyon along the west edge of Cedarville.

**Lake City Project:** Crews have begun cutting brush and burning piles south of Lake City. The project area extends from County Road 18, north along County Road 17 to about a mile south of Lake City. The BLM is working with the Lake City Volunteer Fire Department and several landowners to remove vegetation in 30-foot strip along the road, reinforcing the effectiveness of the road as a firebreak.

**Fort Bidwell Fuel Breaks:** Work will begin in late March or early April on two fuel breaks along the Indian Reservation boundary. The BLM, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Devil's Garden Conservation Camp are cooperating on the brush burning project, which includes maintenance of a fuel break completed along the Reservation's eastern boundary in 1991.

**Cow Project:** The BLM fuels crew will be cutting and burning brush in a 60-acre area about six miles northeast of Fort Bidwell. The project is designed to slow the spread of wildfire, providing protection for private property and structures. Work began last year and will continue this spring.

**Snake Lake Project:** BLM crews plan to complete 100-acre burn to reduce medusahead, an invasive weed, in the Snake Lake area about 10 miles south of Eagleville. The project will improve livestock grazing and wildlife habitat conditions.

**Day Road Project:** BLM crews will be conducting a 65-acre burn northeast of McArthur to reduce hazardous fuels and provide wildfire protection to the community of Day.

**Muck Valley:** Three projects are planned for west of Bieber. Two of the planned projects are forest health understory burning and will total approximately 100 acres. The third project will consist of burning piles.

Burning will take place on permissive burn days. Additionally, all three agencies will coordinate with industry landowners and agency managers in the areas surrounding the prescribed burn locations on days planned to burn. "This collaboration effort limits the amount of smoke in the air at any one time," Commented Mike Holmes, Fire Management Officer for the Eagle Lake Ranger District.

The objectives of prescribed burning programs are to:

- ❖ Reduce natural and management activity created fuels.
- ❖ Reduce the threat of catastrophic fires, such as the recent fires across the interior west.
- ❖ Enhance forage opportunities for wildlife by increasing new growth.

- ❖ Create and further develop Defensible Fuel Profile Zones (DFPZ) to protect communities.

The BLM, Lassen Volcanic National Park and Lassen National Forest are committed to returning your public lands to a more natural fire resistant state, through the combined use of mechanical treatment and prescribed fire. For more information contact the fire management staff at your local ranger station, park service or BLM office.

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