

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Office of Communications

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

News and Information
For Immediate Release
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Contacts: Virginia Gibbons
(541) 416-6647

Several Prescribed Burns Scheduled West of Bend, Southeast of La Pine

CENTRAL OREGON –Fuels technicians are continuing with prescribed burn projects later this week, **weather permitting**, on National Forest lands near the communities of Bend, Sunriver and La Pine.

Fuels treatment project maps showing all of the potential treatments for public lands in FY09 are currently available on the Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon> Click on “Fire & Aviation” in the left column and you’ll see the Newberry, Cascades, Prairie and Rivers Division maps at the top.

Bend Area Burns Scheduled For This Week

The “**Pine**” and “**Klak**” burns are 60 and 246 acres, respectively, and both are on the Deschutes National Forest. **The Pine burn project is located close to Century Drive approximately two miles southwest of the Inn of the Seventh Mountain and seven miles west of Bend. The Klak burn project is located approximately four miles southwest of Sunriver, just west of Big River Day Use Area and north of Bates Butte along Forest Road 4220.**

The burn objective is to reduce hazardous fuels; the Pine burn is adjacent to the Bend Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Klak burn is located inside the Upper Deschutes Coalition Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

These burns will take from one to two days to complete with mop up immediately following ignitions that are **scheduled to begin at approximately 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2, as needed.** A patrol plan will be developed by the end of the first burn period. The Redmond Hotshots will be assisting with this burn depending upon their availability.

Smoke may be visible from the City of Bend and may impact Century Drive (46), and Forest Roads 41, 46 and 4220. Signs will be posted along Forest Roads 41 and 4220. Nearby communities and subdivisions that may be impacted include Bend (seven miles), Sunriver (six miles) and River Meadows (two miles). Residents should expect to see smoke for several days.

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La Pine Area Burn Scheduled For This Week

The **“Flat Top”** burn consists of two blocks; one block is 484 acres in size and the other is 390 acres in size. **The Flat Top burn project is located two miles northwest of “Hole in the Ground” and approximately 34 miles southeast of Bend and 20 miles southeast of La Pine.**

The burn objective is to help maintain the mature ponderosa pine stands by reducing hazardous fuels and also to improve forage for deer winter range.

This burn will take three to four days to complete with an approximate ignition time of 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, potentially continuing through Sunday, May 3. Patrols and mop up guidelines will be assigned daily

Light to moderate smoke may be visible from Highway 31. Forest roads in the burn area may see moderate to heavy smoke on interior road ways. Signs will be posted to advise motorists of the burn. Residual smoke is expected to be present in the area for three to five days.

General Information About Prescribed Burns

When approaching areas where prescribed burns are being conducted, motorists should reduce speed, turn on head lights and proceed with caution when traveling through smoke-impacted areas. Potentially affected subdivision residents are advised to close doors and windows to prevent smoke from entering dwellings. Forest visitors should avoid traveling on foot through burn project areas, as any trees weakened by the burn may fall and burning stump holes can cause significant burns to those who step into them.

Prescribed burning is implemented during optimal weather conditions at times that favor the best smoke dispersal possible, in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry Smoke Management Program. The weather determines the appropriate time for burning; all prescribed burn projects are tentatively scheduled and subject to change.

For further information on the Pine and Klak burns, contact Shannon Evans at (541) 383-4706; for the Flat Top burn, contact Michael P. Simmons at (541) 280-5447.

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