

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Pacific
Umatilla National Forest

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Area Closure Implemented for Prescribed Fire Activities Along Grande Ronde River North of Rondowa

Rafters and anglers along the Grand Ronde River will be limited to camping opportunities on the south side of the river as the Umatilla National Forest, in cooperation with the Vale District, Bureau of Land Management implement the Lower Sheep Prescribed Fire Project on north side of the river corridor.

The 3,000 acre prescribed fire project is part of a large scale forest restoration effort and stretches about seven miles from the mouth of Sheep Creek downriver to the mouth of Meadow Creek. Forest managers plan to begin burning the last week of September, when favorable weather conditions are forecasted.

“The area closure is needed to provide for the safety of our recreating public during and after burning operations,” said Mike Rassbach, Walla Walla District Ranger. The closure order is for the lands north of Rondowa, along the north side (river left) of the Grande Ronde River from river mile 79.5 to river mile 72.5. It ensures that campsites along the north side of the river will not be occupied during or immediately following the prescribed fire project. The closure will remain in effect for up to 14 days following the start of the project.

For more information about the project, please contact Brett Thomas, Fire Management Officer, Walla Walla Ranger District, at (509) 522-6284. A map and description of the closure area is available online at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/.

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