



Contributed photo/Thomas Dekany

Prairie City Ranger District fire officials burned a 100-acre unit near Prairie City Sunday.

# Officials monitor conditions for fall prescribed fires

100-acre unit burned in Prairie City Sunday

Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City Ranger District performed a prescribed fire Sunday, and officials continue to monitor conditions for others elsewhere on the Malheur National Forest.

On Sunday, ignitions began on 2b of the Dads WUI Project with full ignition for the 100-acre unit planned that day. Smoke was visible from Prairie City and Highway 26.

The unit is located in the Eureka Gulch/Dans Creek area in Township 12 South, Range 34 East,

Section 35. The burn is south of Highway 26 to Forest Road 306 and off of forest roads 388 and 350.

Blue Mountain Ranger District and Emigrant Creek Ranger District continue to monitor conditions to begin fall prescribed fire activity.

For the safety of firefighters and the public, roads and areas of prescribed fire activity will be signed. Avoid these areas so as not to interfere with ongoing operations.

For safety, roads, trails and areas may need to close temporarily as firefighter operations are taking place. Smoky conditions may also reduce visibility to a level that would require additional temporary closures.

During prescribed fire operations, there is potential for impacts to camping and hunting. Hunters are advised to plan ahead. For their safety, they should not camp in or near an area of prescribed fire activity.

Fall operations reduce surface fuels, increase height of some canopy, reduce small tree densities and help promote fire resilient trees, thereby improving the ability to protect communities from wildfire.

Additionally, these prescribed fires improve wildlife habitat and promote long-term ecosystem integrity and sustainability by reducing the risk of high-severity wildland fire.

All prescribed burn

activity is weather and condition dependent.

With the potential for smoke to settle in certain areas during active operations, the public can monitor the smoke and air quality in the area and across the state by visiting [oregonsmoke.blogspot.com](http://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com).

Additional information regarding prescribed burning on the Malheur National Forest is available on InciWeb at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6299> or by viewing the Prescribed Fire Activity interactive map at <http://areg.is/2wUZiil>.

For further information on the Malheur National Forest, visit [fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://fs.usda.gov/malheur) or call the Supervisor's Office at 541-575-3000.

# Public use restrictions lifted on Malheur National Forest

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completely extinguished prior to leaving.

Fire officials on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District have announced the fire danger rating is now moderate and all public use restrictions pertaining to recreational chainsaw use, smoking and off-road travel have been lifted.

The Industrial Fire Precaution has lowered to level 1. This reduction is the same as the changes announced on Blue Mountain and Prairie City Ranger District earlier this week.

A one-hour fire watch is always required after saw operations cease. Saw operators are required to have a shovel (8 inches wide, 26 inches in length), and fire extinguisher (minimum AB 8 oz.) in their possession.

Campfires should be in fire pits surrounded by dirt, rock or commercial rings, and in areas not conducive to rapid fire spread. Campfires should have a minimum clearance of 3 feet from the edge of the fire pit. Use existing pits wherever possible. Campfires must be attended at all times, and

Persons with campfires should have a tool such as a shovel and 1 gallon of water in their possession. The shovel and water can be used to extinguish the fire before leaving your campsite. Use the "drown, stir, feel" method to ensure your campfire is completely extinguished before leaving.

Campfires in designated wilderness areas should be located so minimal disturbance is necessary and to prevent fire spread. Naturally cleared areas, previously used sites, and areas where vegetation is non-flammable (green grass) are examples. Use of a folding shovel when backpacking will aid you in completely extinguishing your campfire.

Check with local Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Forestry offices for public use restrictions in effect on lands managed by these agencies.

For more information, call 541-575-3000, or visit [fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://fs.usda.gov/malheur).

# Forest roads 13 and 16 open to woodcutting on perimeter of Cow Fire

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remains in effect in the vicinity of the Cow Fire and surrounding roads. While the 16, 13 and 1665 roads remain open, there is still an Area Closure in effect that includes all roads west from the 13 road, roads to the north of the 1665 and roads to the west of the 16 road that will remain in place for an extended period.

Crews have been released from the Cow Fire southeast of Prairie City, and the public may now gather wood from felled and stacked woodpiles along forest roads 13 and 16 on the perimeter of the fire.

Felling trees is not permitted in the area. Permits are required and may be purchased at any Malheur National Forest Ranger District office. While woodcutting is normally not permitted on forest roads with two-digit identifiers, the Forest Service has temporarily waived this restriction on the 13 and 16 roads.

Material cleared along these roads to stop the fire has been piled next to the roads to facilitate public woodcutting. There is still firefighting traffic in the area, so the public is reminded to drive slowly and carefully.

The Road Closure Order

Elk Creek campground also remains closed. It is not safe to travel off road in recently burned areas. Trees killed or weakened by the fire will continue to fall for months, even during calm weather

On Sunday, crews continued with fireline cleanup and repair. Prairie City Rural Fire Department personnel will carry on with additional cleanup and repair. Crews are repairing firelines to prevent erosion by building water bars to divert runoff away from the fireline

# Grant County flood damage assistance available from Farm Service Agency

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Farm Service Agency is accepting applications for assistance for spring flood damage to producers in Grant County.

Applications will be accepted through Oct. 2 for the Emergency Conservation Program, which provides cost-share assistance to affected producers that suffered damage of such magnitude that it would be too costly for the producer to rehabilitate without federal assistance, according to a press release.

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost shares not to

exceed 75 percent of the cost of installing eligible practices. Limited resource producers may receive up to 90 percent cost share. No producer is eligible for more than \$500,000 cost sharing per natural disaster. Approved practices and measures may include removing debris from farmland; grading, shaping or releveling severely damaged farmland; restoring permanent fences; and restoring conservation structures and other similar installations (ditches, head gates, diversions, etc.).

To be eligible for cost share, practices shall not be started until a request has

first been filed at the FSA county office, and an onsite inspection of the problem area has been made by the County Committee or its representative. The County Committee will review the on-site inspection findings when considering the request for cost shares.

If approved for cost share, all practices where ground disturbance will take place will need to have a cultural resource review completed for that area. Installation of a practice will need technical planning completed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, except for debris removal or fence repair. Installation will have

to meet NRCS standards and guidelines. Planning will be to rebuild the damaged practices to pre-disaster condition. All practices must be installed for use this year.

Producers who have experienced flood damage requiring outside assistance are encouraged to contact the Grant County FSA Office at 541-523-7121, extension 2, to set up an appointment.

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For more information CALL 541-575-1006

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