

Umatilla National Forest implements fall prescribed burning plan

"Cooler temperatures and scattered rain showers have improved forest conditions enough to begin implementing the Umatilla National Forest's fall prescribed burning program," announces Brian Goff, Fire and Aviation Staff Officer. Forest visitors can expect to encounter prescribed burning activities this fall and need to be cautious when hunting or camping near a treatment area.

Prescribed burning is highly dependant on weather conditions. "Conditions have to be within a narrow window in order to use prescribed fire," said Goff. "Wind speed and direction, temperatures, relative humidity, and fuel moistures are all taken into consideration." Fall and spring weather provide the best conditions for prescribed burning: moist soil, dry material and cooler temperatures.

Prescribed burns are used to achieve several goals. Most often the goal is to reduce the risk of intense wildfire by reducing dead fuel accumulation. "Our experience has shown that, in areas where prescribed burning has taken place, wildfires are more likely to stay in the surface fuels, close to the ground, and out of the tree crowns," said Goff. Prescribed burning is also used to significantly lower the risks that wildland fires represent to local communities.

The fall burn program includes burning both activity fuels and natural

fuels. Activity fuels, such as "slash piles," are the non-merchantable material that remains after harvest activities. Natural fuels are the normal accumulation of dead and down material. Natural fuel burns, or "landscape burns," are low intensity burns and can sometimes take weeks to complete.

All prescribed burning will comply with federal, state, and local air quality and smoke dispersal guidelines to reduce the impacts of smoke on forest visitors and local residents. Prescribed burning should be completed by the end of November.

"Now that weather conditions have changed, the public can expect to see several public land management agencies taking advantage of good burn days," said Goff. In addition to the Umatilla National Forest, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will also implement a fall prescribed burn program. For information on burning on privately owned land, contact your local Oregon Department of Forestry office.

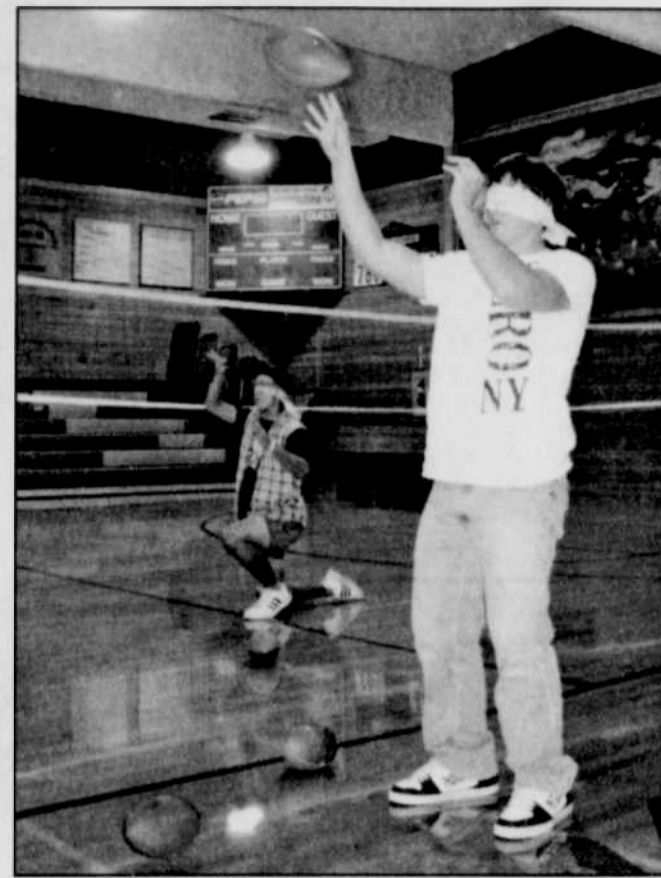
Maps of the proposed prescribed burns are available on the Umatilla National Forest website www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma or at any forest office.

For more information concerning the Umatilla National Forest Prescribed Burning program, contact Brian Goff in Pendleton at (541) 278-3748 or Dale Boyd at the Heppner Ranger District at 676-9187.

HHS celebrates homecoming week with activities



Heppner High School celebrated Homecoming Week, a school spirit week, September 29th - October 2nd. There were dress-up days such as Pajama Day, Would You Be My Friend If I Wore This? Day (some wore crazy outfits, some dressed in Pilot Rock uniforms!), Peanut Butter and Jelly Day (each student finds a partner and they dress up in compatible costumes), and Blue and Gold Day. There were activities throughout the week such as Mud Tug-O-War and a game of dodge ball on Wednesday, and the Noise Parade on Thursday. The volleyball team defeated Pilot Rock on Thursday, and the football team beat Stanfield on Friday; following the football game was the Homecoming Dance. -Photos by Cassidee Day and Matthew Caldwell



Beth's Buddies participate in JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes



Pictured are Beth's Buddies at the annual JDRF Walk to Cure. Back Row L-R: Alex Fetterhoff, Kevin LaRue, Marco Juarez, Zac Orem, Kyle Clouser, Mary Rietmann, Vanessa Liliani, Stefanie Medina, Becca Jepsen, Beth Morter, Steven Holland, Mikey Raible, and Tom Holland. Middle Row L-R: Lacey Thompson, Tanner Rietmann, Jeremy Coleman, Tyree Svetich, Makenna Ramos, Alisha Taylor, Rachel Holland, Collette Casen, and Jason Juarez. Front Row L-R: Mary Gates, Yesenia Verduzco, Shadow Kendrick, Mariah Bradfield, Jacqueline Juarez and Emily Holland. -Contributed Photo

Twenty-two walkers left lone on a dark, rainy morning headed for Portland to participate in the 2009 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Walk to Cure Diabetes. The group was joined by the Lone Speech and Debate Team as well as another group of lone walkers already in Portland, bringing the total number of walkers to 34. Walking as members of the team, Beth's Buddies, the group found the weather in Portland to be much improved and enjoyed a crisp, fall afternoon while they raised money for the cause.

The caravan departed lone at 6:30 fully expecting to find the same wet conditions there that they left at home. Arriving at the walk site, historic Oaks Park in Southeast Portland, they were pleasantly surprised to find no precipitation falling from the sky. This non-competitive walk was one of many held around the country for diabetes research and featured a huge number of family, school

and corporate teams. Over 4,000 people participated in the Portland Walk.

Upon completing the 3.1 mile route through Sellwood Park, the rest of the day included a barbecue and unlimited rides at Oaks Park Amusement Park. At 3 p.m., the adults finally said no to the "just one more ride" plea and herded the reluctant riders to the car for the trip home. A stop at Spooky's in The Dalles for pizza revived the group who arrived home with plenty of time to finish their weekend homework.

Beth's Buddies is a team formed to support Beth Morter, a Type 1 (insulin dependent) diabetic since 2004. Not only did team members collect donations and pledges for the event, but many helped with a spaghetti feed earlier in September where the proceeds benefited JDRF. JDRF is a leading research organization in the effort to find a cure for Type 1 diabetes. Great strides have been made in diabetes treatments in the past decade or two but a cure remains elusive.

Beth's Buddies are still collecting donations for JDRF until November 1. For more information, please contact Anne Morter at 422-7429.

Electric co-op announces photo contest

Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op announces that they will be holding their annual photography contest this fall. The Cooperative is looking for entries from which to select quality prints to be enlarged and put on permanent display.

Entries will be received at both the Condon and Heppner offices now through Wednesday, October 26, closing at 5 p.m. Entries must be photographs, either standard or digital, color or black-and-white, and taken within the C.B.E.C. service territory, with some indication or reference to electricity or electrical infrastructure. This required element may be very minor, however. A panel appointed by C.B.E.C. will perform independent judging of entries. Judge's decisions will be final.

There will be two entry classes: entries of people/animals and entries of landscapes/general interest. The same photo may

be entered in both classes if desired, but a copy for each class will be required. 8 x 10 photos are preferred, but smaller entries are allowed.

There will be awarded a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finish for each class, with prizes granted being \$50 for each first place, \$35 for each second place, and \$15 for each third place award. Entrants will agree to allow Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op to enlarge, frame, and permanently display winning entries at C.B.E.C.'s discretion, with no compensation or value paid. Appropriate recognition will be noted of entrant. All entrants must be members/consumers of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc. No single entrant may submit more than four entries in any one class.

For more information call Tom Wolff of C.B.E.C.'s Heppner office at 676-9146.

Morrow County Economic Development Committee to meet

A meeting has been scheduled for the Morrow County Economic Development Committee to develop its recommendation for Tippage Fee Awards based on the 2009 Needs and Issues Inventory. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, at 10 a.m. at the Boardman City Hall, 200 City Center Circle in Boardman. The public is welcome to attend and observe this interesting process.

This year, 58 applications have been submitted requesting a total of \$1,100,875. This is more than four times the \$250,000 that is available for these community enhancement projects. At their regular meeting on October 28, the county court will make the final award decisions based on the committee recom-

mendations.

Each project sponsor will have the opportunity to briefly address the committee prior to deliberations. Due to the number of applications, each sponsor will be limited to no more than one minute per project. Members of the committee have been supplied with copies of the applications, so this time is best used to provide supplementary information.

Members of the 2009 Economic Development Committee are Betty Gray representing Lone, Barb Huwe representing Irrigon, George Koffler representing Heppner, Karen Pettigrew representing Boardman, John Renfro representing Lexington and Tom Wolff serving at-large. The Morrow County Court are non-voting members of the committee.

Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC) is facilitating this process for Morrow County. Additional information is available by calling Sondra Lino, GEODC, at 541-575-2786 or via e-mail at slino@centurytel.net.

Annual HHS mud tug-o-war held



Top Photo: Tyler Robinson, Chris Lien, Frank Meyer, Keenan Jack, Emily Thompson, Mark McCabe, Jordan Hatfield and Wacy Coil stand as King of the mud pit.

Bottom Photo: Natalie Rauch and Joanna Patton laugh after losing the battle in the Mustang "Tug-of-War." -Photos by Sandy Matthews

MORROW/GRANT COUNTY OHV PARK SPECIAL YOUTH HUNT

SECOND SEASON, SPIKE ONLY
NOVEMBER 7 - NOVEMBER 15, 2009

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN AT THE MORROW COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE, 365 W. HWY 74, P.O. BOX 428, LEXINGTON, OR. 97839. APPLICANTS **MUST** BE A MORROW OR GRANT COUNTY RESIDENT. A HUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE IS **REQUIRED**. APPLICANTS SHOULD BE 12 TO 17 YEARS OLD. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE MORROW COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE BY OCTOBER 21, 2009 BY 4:00 P.M. APPLICATIONS WILL BE DRAWN AT MORROW COUNTY COURT ON OCTOBER 28TH DURING THE COUNTY COURT SESSION. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE AT 541-989-9500.



4-H is a great volunteer opportunity that fits your interests, skills and time available with the needs of youth in your community. Interested in learning more? Contact your county 4-H office today:

Morrow County 4-H
1.800.342.3664 or
541.676.9642
Claire Sponseller, Agent

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