



Deschutes National Forest

Forest Service News Release

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www.fs.usda.gov/main/deschutes/home

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Prescribed Burning Slated to Continue Friday Four Miles SW of Bend Adjacent to Forest Service Road 41

Ignitions planned on up to 113 acres; road, river and trail closures remain in place

Bend, Ore – On Friday, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District firefighters plan to conduct prescribed burn operations four miles west of Bend, south of the Cascade Lakes Welcome Station, adjacent to the east side of Forest Service 41 and west of the Deschutes River.

Firefighters plan to ignite up to 113 acres on the remaining Big Eddy Prescribed Burn units. Ignitions are planned for around 10 a.m. Smoke will be visible from Bend and the surrounding area. Residents in Bend and those south and east of the Deschutes River, including Sunriver, La Pine and Redmond are encouraged to keep doors and windows closed to minimize smoke impacts. Smoke impacts are most likely overnight and in the early morning hours.

The north bound lane of Forest Service Road 41 will be closed. A pilot car will be escorting traffic through the area. Drivers can anticipate a short delay. There may be some short duration closures to both lanes on Forest Service Road 41 if needed based on smoke impacts. Smoke and flames will be visible from Cascades Lakes Highway; however, travel delays are not anticipated.

The following closures remain in place during implementation and for up to a week following ignitions until firefighters assess conditions and determine the area is safe:

Deschutes River Access Points

- **Lava Island Day Use River Access** – Closed
- **Big Eddy Day Use River Access** – Closed
- **Aspen Day Use River Access** - Closed

Roads / Parking

- **Forest Service Road 41** – The northbound lane of Forest Service Road 41 will be closed. Pilot cars will be escorting traffic through the area. Drivers can anticipate a short delay. There may be some short duration closures to both lanes on Forest Service Road 41 if needed based on smoke impacts.
- **All roads on the east side of Forest Service Road 41 between the junction with the Cascade Lakes Highway south to Dillon Falls** – Closed
- **Forest Service Road 41-800 (Access to Lava Island Day Use)** – Closed
- **Forest Service Road 41-750 (Access to Big Eddy Day Use)** – Closed
- **Forest Service Road 41-700 (Access to Aspen Day Use)** – Closed
- **Storm King Trailhead Parking** – Closed

Trails

- **Catch & Release** – Closed between the Cascade Lakes Highway to Storm King junction.

- **Deschutes River Trail** – Closed from Meadow Day Use Area south to Dillon Falls. The Deschutes River Trail is open south of Dillon Falls.
- **Deschutes River Horse Trail** – Closed
- **Deschutes River MTB Trail** – Closed between Meadow Day Use Area south to Dillon Falls.
- **One Hour Horse Trail** – Closed
- **Two Hour Horse Trail** – Closed

The prescribed burn is within the West Bend Project area and received thinning and mowing to reduce vegetation loading prior to burning. Prescribed burning reintroduces and maintains fire within a fire-dependent ecosystem helping to stabilize and improve the resiliency of forest conditions while increasing public and firefighter safety. Once firefighters ignite prescribed burns, they patrol the units until they declare the burn out.

This prescribed burn is occurring within the [Central Oregon Landscape](#), one of 21 focal landscapes identified within the [Forest Service’s Wildfire Crisis Strategy](#). The implementation of this prescribed burn supports the Deschutes National Forest’s commitment to addressing the Wildfire Crisis Strategy which aims to reduce severity of wildfires, protect communities, and improve the health and resiliency of fire-dependent forests.

Prescribed burns can protect homes from tragic wildfires. Fire management officials work with Oregon Department of Forestry smoke specialists to plan prescribed burns. Prescribed burns are conducted when weather is most likely to move smoke up and away from our communities. While prescribed fire managers take significant preventive measures, it’s likely that communities may experience some smoke during or immediately after a prescribed burn.

What does this mean for you?

During prescribed burns, smoke may settle in low-lying areas overnight and in the early morning hours.

- All residents are encouraged to close doors and windows at night to avoid smoke impacts.
- If available, use a portable air cleaner. Air cleaners work best running with doors and windows closed. You can also [create a DIY air cleaner](#).
- If you have a central air system, use it to filter air. Use high-efficiency filters if possible.
- When driving in smoky areas, drivers should slow down, turn on headlights and turn air to recirculating.
- If you have heart or lung disease, asthma, or other chronic conditions, pay attention to how you feel and if symptoms of heart or lung disease worsen, consider contacting your health care professional.
- Go to [centraloregonfire.org](#) to learn more about smoke safety and prescribed burning in Central Oregon and visit [When Smoke is in the Air](#) for more smoke preparedness resources.

For more information on prescribed burning in Central Oregon, visit [centraloregonfire.org/](#) and for information specific to the Deschutes National Forest visit [www.fs.usda.gov/deschutes](#). Follow us on X/Twitter @CentralORFire. Text “COFIRE” to 888-777 to receive wildfire and prescribed fire text alerts.

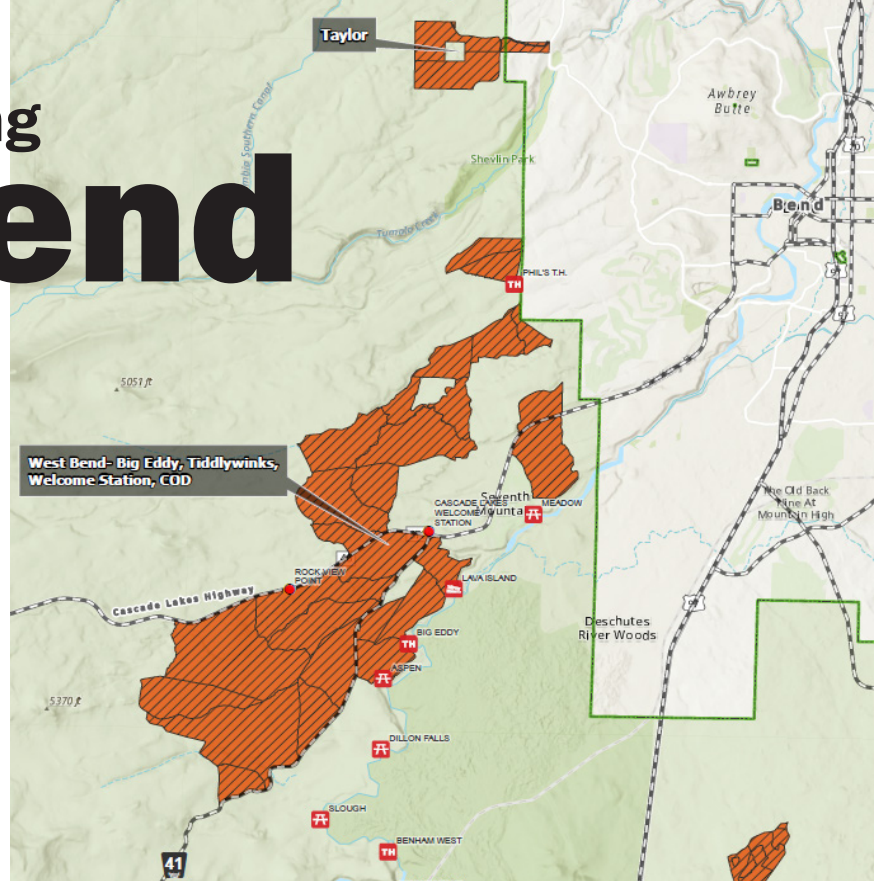
-USFS-


2024 Prescribed Burning West Bend


This spring, the Deschutes National Forest plans to conduct up to 3,000 acres of prescribed burning in the forest directly west of Bend.

Prescribed burning is a critical tool to reduce the risk for catastrophic wildfire impacting our community. Forest restoration has been ongoing in West Bend since 2014 with these areas receiving thinning, mowing, mastication, and pile burning in preparation for returning low-intensity fire to the landscape.

Fire plays an integral role in Central Oregon's ecosystem. Some of the things we love most about our landscape, like Ponderosa pines, require frequent low-intensity fire to sustain.



 Prescribed burns, which are primarily conducted in the spring and fall, are carefully planned and implemented under specific conditions including, temperature, wind, humidity, and vegetation moisture. These prescribed conditions help to ensure that the fire burns with a low-intensity and reduces the likelihood that heavy smoke will blow into nearby communities.

 Firefighters work with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Forestry Smoke Management, the Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Health Authority and Deschutes County Public Health to conduct prescribed burns when conditions will minimize smoke impacts to communities. However, some smoke is inevitable and part of living in a fire-dependent ecosystem.



Locations

Orange cross-hatched areas on the map above show units where firefighters may conduct prescribed burn operations.



Dates

Prescribed burns are planned around specific wind, weather, and moisture conditions. As such, ignition days can only be determined up to 72 to 24 hours in advance.

Stay Informed

- Text **COFIRE** to **888-777** to receive text alerts on day of ignitions.
- Visit **CentralOregonFire.org** for planned prescribed burn updates, smoke preparedness resources, and air quality index (AQI) levels.
- Follow **@CentralORFire** on X (formerly Twitter) for prescribed burn updates including day of ignitions updates.



Forest Service
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Jefferson County

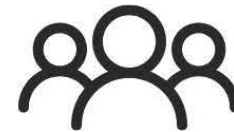


Public Health
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What to know about **smoke** during **prescribed fire** season

Prescribed burning can bring smoky air to Central Oregon. The good news is, we know when these burns are happening so we can be prepared. This is the best time to prepare for wildfire season, when the smoke can show up without warning, and stick around for longer.



Why do we care about smoke?

Wildfire smoke affects everyone's health. It is important for all of us to limit our exposure to smoke! Some people may have worse symptoms, including people with health conditions or over age 65.

How to protect your health from smoke during prescribed burns:

- Close your windows! Smoke may be worse overnight
- Talk to your health care team and make a plan if you have health conditions
- Keep indoor air as clean as possible
- Locate cleaner air spaces by calling 211
- The Air Quality Index (AQI) tells us when it is safe to be outdoors. Find the AQI for your area at www.fire.airnow.gov
- Be willing to change your plans to avoid smoke
- Wear an N95 mask for extreme smoke or long periods of time outside

Have questions? Need more info? Learn more at <https://centraloregonfire.org/protect-your-health/> or scan here:



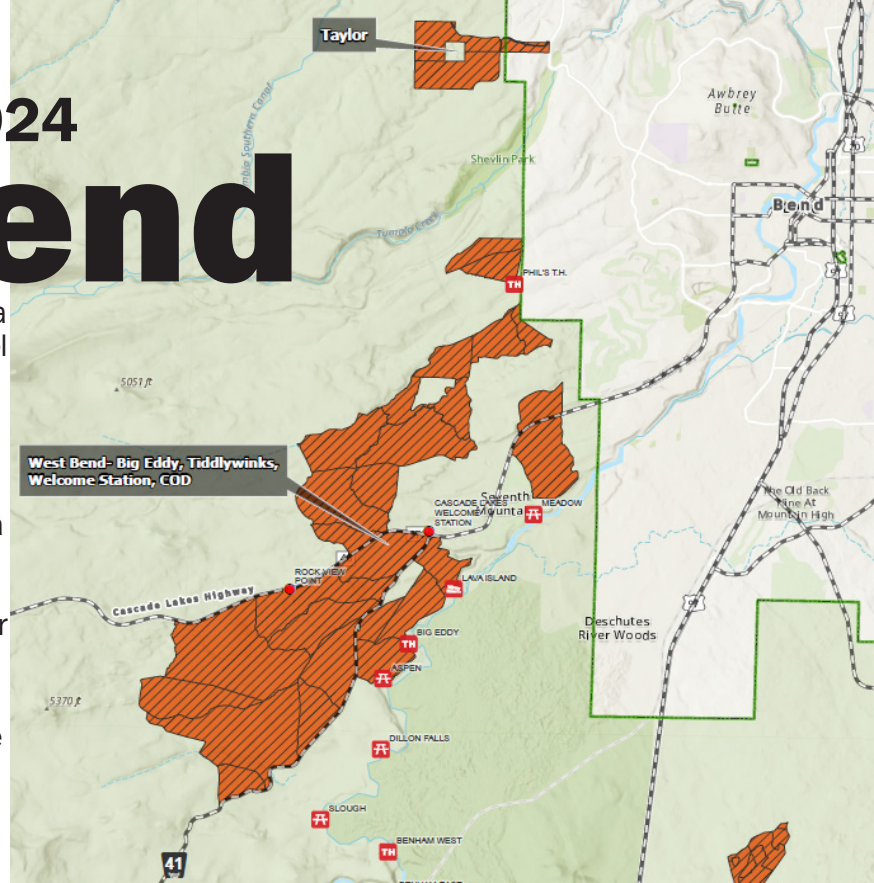
To request this information in an alternate format, please call (458) 292-8347 or email healthservices@deschutes.org.

Quemas controladas 2024 West Bend

Esta primavera, el Bosque Nacional Deschutes planea realizar quemas controladas en hasta 3,000 acres del bosque, directamente en el oeste de Bend.

La quema controlada es una herramienta fundamental para reducir el riesgo de tener incendios forestales catastróficos que afectan a nuestra comunidad. La restauración forestal se ha realizado en West Bend desde 2014 mediante el aclareo, la siega, la trituración y la quema en pilas de estas áreas como preparación para reintroducir las quemas de baja intensidad en el entorno.

El fuego cumple un rol integral en el ecosistema de Central Oregon. Algunos de los elementos que más amamos de nuestro ecosistema, como los pinos ponderosa, necesitan fuego frecuente de baja intensidad para sobrevivir.



Las quemas controladas, que se realizan principalmente en primavera y otoño, se planifican minuciosamente y se implementan con condiciones específicas que incluyen la temperatura, el viento, la humedad y la humedad de la vegetación. Estas condiciones controladas ayudan a garantizar que el fuego queme con una intensidad baja y se reduzca la probabilidad de que el humo denso llegue a las comunidades cercanas. Los bomberos trabajan con el Departamento de Calidad Ambiental de Oregon, el área de Control del humo del Departamento Forestal de Oregon, la Agencia de Protección Ambiental, la Autoridad de Salud de Oregon y el Departamento de Salud Pública del condado de Deschutes para realizar las quemas controladas cuando las condiciones minimizan el impacto del humo en las comunidades. Sin embargo, es inevitable que haya un poco de humo, y esto forma parte de vivir en un ecosistema que depende del fuego.



Ubicaciones

Las áreas con trama naranja del mapa que figura más arriba muestran unidades en las que los bomberos podrían realizar quemas controladas.



Fechas

Las quemas controladas se planifican en base a condiciones específicas de viento, clima y humedad. Por lo tanto, los días de quema se pueden determinar con 24 a 72 horas de anticipación.

Manténgase informado

- Envíe el mensaje de texto **COFIRE** al **888-777** para recibir alertas por mensaje de texto sobre los días de quema.
- Visite **CentralOregonFire.org** para obtener actualizaciones sobre las quemas controladas planificadas, recursos de preparación para el humo e información sobre los niveles del índice de calidad del aire (*air quality index*, AQI).
- Siga la cuenta **@CentralORFire** en X (anteriormente Twitter) para obtener actualizaciones sobre quemas controladas, incluidos los días de quema.



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

El Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (United States Department of Agriculture, USDA) es un proveedor, empleador y acreedor que brinda igualdad de oportunidades.



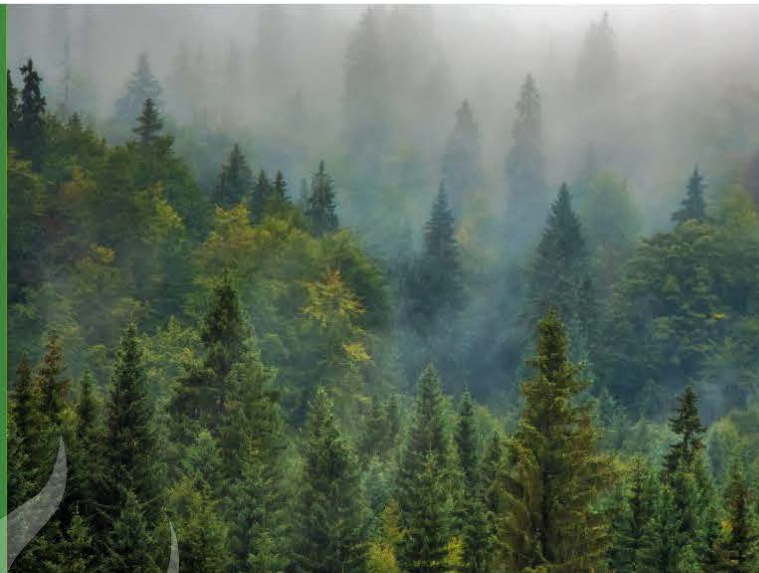
Jefferson County



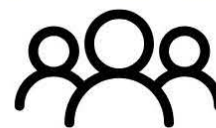
Public Health
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Lo que hay que saber sobre **el humo** durante Temporada de **incendios prescritos**



La quema prescrita puede traer aire humeante al Centro de Oregon. La buena noticia es que sabemos cuándo están ocurriendo estas quemaduras para que podamos estar preparados. Este es el mejor momento para prepararse para la temporada de incendios forestales, cuando el humo puede aparecer sin previo aviso y quedarse por más tiempo.



¿Por qué nos importa el humo?

El humo de los incendios forestales afecta la salud de todos. ¡Es importante para todos nosotros limitar nuestra exposición al humo! Algunas personas pueden tener síntomas peores, incluso las personas con afecciones de salud o mayores de 65 años.

Cómo proteger su salud del humo durante la quema prescrita:

- ¡Cierra las ventanas! El humo puede empeorar durante la noche
- Hable con su equipo de atención médica y elabore un plan si tiene problemas de salud
- Mantenga el aire interior lo más limpio posible
- Localice espacios de aire limpio llamando al 211
- El Índice de Calidad del Aire (AQI, por sus siglas en inglés) nos dice cuándo es seguro estar al aire libre Encuentre el AQI para su área en www.fire.airnow.gov
- Esté dispuesto a cambiar sus planes para evitar el humo
- Use una mascarilla N95 para humo extremo o largos períodos de tiempo al aire libre

¿Tiene preguntas? ¿Necesita más información? Más información en <https://centraloregonfire.org/protect-your-health/> o escanee aquí:



Para solicitar más información
en un formato alternativo, por favor llame al (458) 292- 8347 o envíe un correo electrónico a healthservices@deschutes.org.

Central Oregon's

WILDFIRE CRISIS

strategy

Over the past 150 years

For over a century, national forests grew unnaturally dense due to aggressive fire suppression, historic forest practices, and the end of cultural fire use by Indigenous people.

Now, longer and hotter summers are putting more stress on trees which leaves them susceptible to insects and disease.



These extreme conditions lead to wildfires burning more land with greater intensity, often threatening homes, water supplies, and critical infrastructure.

By proactively addressing the wildfire crisis in Central Oregon, we can safeguard our cherished way of life for future generations.

Under the national **Wildfire Crisis Strategy**, the Deschutes National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland are building on past successes and investments to increase the pace and scale of wildfire risk reduction around our communities and across the landscape.

DESCHUTES
National
Forest

CROOKED RIVER
National
Grassland

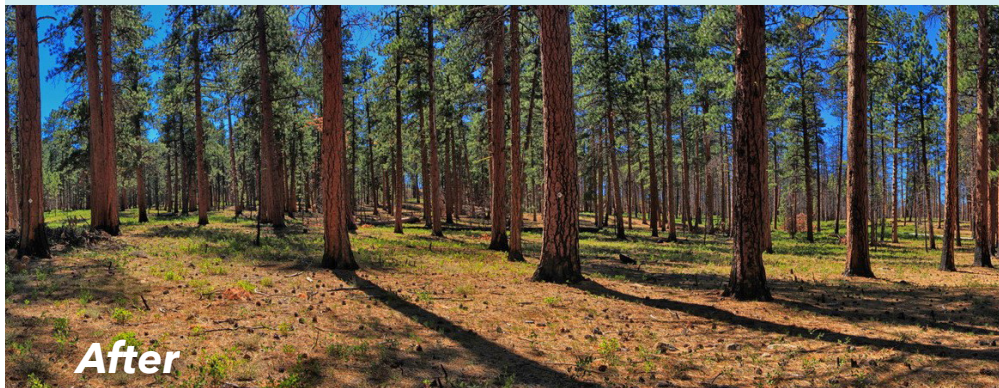


National effort, local benefits



Before

An overgrown understory in a ponderosa pine ecosystem forces trees to compete for sunlight, water and nutrients and increases ladder fuels that carry fire into tree tops.



After

The removal of some trees and reintroduction of fire decreases competition for resources and returns nutrients to the soil, making large trees more resilient.

Healthier forests, safer communities



Short-duration prescribed burning smoke to decrease long-term wildfire smoke.

Fire professionals strategically plan and implement prescribed burns to reduce smoke impacts on communities.



Temporary trail closures for long-term benefits of increased forest health.

For your safety and the safety of others, please respect closure boundaries and pay attention to signage while recreating on public lands.



Smartphone users, scan here!



Be prepared for your visit to national forest managed lands by checking in at the local ranger district office to learn about current closures or prescribed burns that may impact your plans.

If you have a home, be Firewise™ by ensuring you are doing yearly maintenance to remove ground litter, limb trees and keep your home and community safe from wildfire.

WILDFIRE CRISIS strategy

The U.S. Forest Service introduced the **Wildfire Crisis Strategy** in 2021, a 10-year plan to address western wildfires in the places where they pose the most immediate threats to our communities.

The strategy combines congressional funding with extensive scientific research and planning to create a national effort to increase forest health treatments over the next decade.

Due to Central Oregon's high risk for extreme wildfire and successful partnerships, the Forest Service chose this area as one of the initial landscapes identified for targeted investments.

With these funds, the Deschutes National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland, along with Tribal, State, and local partners, expect to treat more than 50,000 acres by 2024.



El centro de Oregón

estrategia para la

CRISIS DE INCENDIOS FORESTALES

Durante los últimos 150 años

Por más de cien años, los bosques nacionales han crecido anormalmente densos debido a una supresión agresiva que se ha aplicado en los incendios, a las prácticas históricas forestales y a la eliminación cultural de incendios que se utilizaba en los pueblos indígenas.

Actualmente, los veranos más extensos y calientes están produciendo mayor estrés sobre los árboles dejándolos más susceptibles al ataque de insectos y enfermedades.



Estas condiciones extremas incrementan los incendios que queman el terreno de una manera más intensa y que a menudo representan una amenaza para las viviendas, para las fuentes de agua y para la infraestructura crítica.

Si abordáramos el problema de una manera proactiva la crisis de los incendios en el área de Central Oregon, podríamos resguardar una forma de vida más apropiada para las futuras generaciones.

Bajo la Estrategia Nacional de Crisis de Incendios, el Bosque Nacional de Deschutes y la Pradera Nacional de Crooked River se están basando en éxitos e inversiones pasadas con la finalidad de incrementar el balance en la reducción del riesgo en nuestras comunidades y en todo el panorama.

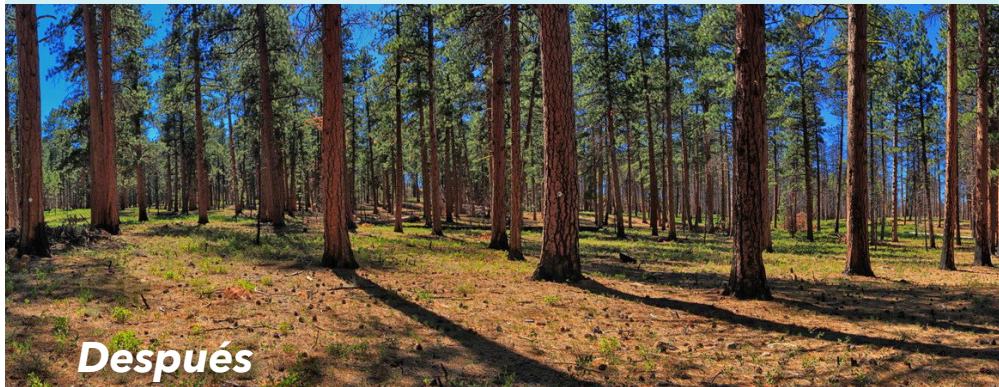


Esfuerzo Nacional, beneficios a nivel local



Antes

Un bosque cubierto de maleza dentro de un ecosistema de pinos ponderosa, hace que los árboles compitan por la luz, agua y los nutrientes, así como incrementa la posibilidad de un escalamiento en la materia de combustión la cual acarrearía el fuego hacia la copa de los árboles.



Después

Con la eliminación de algunos árboles y la reintroducción de incendios se disminuye la competencia de recursos regresando los nutrientes al suelo, convirtiendo los árboles más grandes en una especie más resistente.

Entre mas saludable sea el bosque, más segura estará la comunidad



Se están realizando quemas que producen humo con una duración.

Los profesionales de incendios planean e implementan de una manera estratégica quemas prescritas para reducir el impacto del humo en las comunidades.



La salud del bosque se incrementa con el cierre temporal de senderos por largo periodos de tiempo.

Por su seguridad y la de otros, por favor respete las áreas cerradas y ponga atención a las señales cuando se encuentre visitando las tierras públicas.



Personas con iPhone/Android, pueden escanear aquí!



Prepárese cuando visite los bosques nacionales anunciando su presencia en la oficina del distrito de guardabosques para estar al tanto de cierres vigentes o quemas prescritas que podrían interferir en sus planes.

Si usted es dueño de una vivienda, asegúrese de realizar mantenimientos anuales para remover la hojarasca en el suelo, ciertas ramas de árboles y de esta forma mantiene su casa y la comunidad segura de incendios forestales.

estrategia para la

CRISIS DE INCENDIOS FORESTALES

El Servicio Forestal de los Estados Unidos, introdujo la **Estrategia para la Crisis de Incendios Forestales** en el año 2021, así como un plan de 10 años para enfrentar incendios del oeste en zonas que representan un riesgo inminente para las comunidades. Esta estrategia cuenta con la combinación de fondos del congreso con estudios científicos extensivos y con planes de crear un esfuerzo nacional que incremente tratamientos saludables en el bosque para las generaciones futuras.

Debido al alto riesgo de incendios forestales extremados en el área de Central Oregon y con el apoyo de una alianza exitosa, el bosque nacional ha elegido esta área como uno de los panoramas iniciales que han sido identificados para realizar inversiones específicas.

Con dichos fondos, el Bosque Nacional de Deschutes y la Pradera Nacional de Crooked River, aunada a la Tribu local, socios a nivel estatales y local, se espera dar tratamiento a más de 50,000 acres para el final del año 2024.



Subject: HAN: Deschutes County Public Health recommends preparedness for smoke season.



Deschutes County Public Health reminds providers to share information with patients on Poor Air Quality due to smoke .

Over the past several weeks, prescribed burns have been taking place across the region and also closer to town (West of Bend near the Cascade Lakes Highway). If conditions allow, prescribed burning will again be conducted in the West Bend area this week. There have been intermittent air quality impacts related to this prescribed burn activity. Smoke impacts are most likely to cause poor air quality overnight in some areas, with clearing in the morning (as forecasted and previously observed). Some daytime smoke impacts have been observed around Sunriver and La Pine. Please remember to close your windows at night to limit smoke exposure during spring prescribed burn season, and encourage others to do the same.

This 2-sided handout ([English](#), [Spanish](#)) shares health recommendations along with more detailed information about the planned burns. We are asking healthcare providers to share this information, with patients, clients and partners and in your networks. You can find clinical guidance regarding patient recommendations and masks [here](#).

Whether smoke comes from wildfires, prescribed burns, or another source like campfires, it can be harmful to health. The number one recommendation, for all of us, is to limit our exposure to smoke. Some people may be more affected by smoke, including older adults, people with health conditions, and children.

We are encouraging the public to think of spring prescribed burn season as a great time to get *Smoke Ready*. Smoke during prescribed burning is something we can plan for. Planning early allows us to be ready during wildfire season, when smoke can show up without warning and stick around for longer. Now is the time to be thinking about how to stay safe when it is smoky!

[How to Protect your Patients' Health from Smoke during Prescribed Burn Season](#)

and Wildfire Season

- Knowledge is power - tell your patients how to stay informed about prescribed burn activity so they know when and where smoke may occur. Bookmark the [Central Oregon Fire](#) website and sign up for text message alerts by texting “**COFIRE**” to **888-777**.
- Talk with your patients and make a plan for how to manage their health conditions when it is smoky.
 - Patients with reactive airways disease should be advised to watch for symptoms of exacerbations and to take prescribed medications or seek additional care accordingly.
 - Patients with underlying cardiovascular disease should be advised to watch for symptoms and to seek additional care as needed.
 - Particularly sensitive individuals, including children with asthma, heart disease, and others should consider relocation out of smoky areas if possible. Another option is moving them to a “cleaner air center”, which may be in their home, the home of a friend or relative or publicly provided location. Patients can call **211** or visit [this page](#) to find cleaner indoor air spaces if they don’t have access to clean indoor air.
- Advise patients to consider wearing an [N95 mask](#) for extreme smoke or long periods of time outside.
- Advise patients to close windows and doors overnight when burns are taking place. Smoke tends to settle and can cause worse air quality overnight.
- Let patients know they can check [air quality reports](#) and [monitors](#) for real-time information about current and expected air quality so they know when it’s safe to be outside, and learn more about what [activities](#) are considered safe at different AQI levels.
- Keeping [indoor air as clean](#) as possible is important. Advise patients to consider using an air purifier, or upgrading their HVAC filter. Anyone can make [a filter fan](#) at low cost.

For additional information on smoke, health, and the prescribed burn west of Bend, please see these attachments:

- [English Version](#)
- [Spanish Version](#)

Media Contact: [Sarah Worthington, Climate and Health Coordinator](#), 541-322-7446

To request this information in an alternate format, please call (541) 322-7444
or send an email to info@deschutes.org.

Deschutes County | 1300 NW Wall Street | Bend, OR 97703 US

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Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

The Deschutes County Environmental Health Department's Indoor Air Quality Program was developed to improve the health of Deschutes County's citizens by reducing exposure to indoor air contaminants. The primary function of this program is to provide advice and technical assistance for existing or potential indoor air hazards and help people access indoor air quality testing, prevention and mitigation resources. The IAQ program can assist businesses, organizations, day cares, schools, health care settings and other public facilities with a focus on vulnerable populations.



Ensuring proper ventilation can help reduce indoor airborne contaminants including viruses, such as SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19. Studies have shown that the transmission of Covid-19 increases in spaces with inadequate ventilation and airflow. A few simple actions can reduce the risk of viral transmission, improve the air quality inside your home or building and lessen your exposure to a variety of indoor air hazards including wildfire smoke.

What you can do now

Good Outdoor Air Quality – Not Smoky

- Open windows and doors to let in fresh air
- Increase amount of outdoor air pulled through HVAC system
- Clean to get rid of dust and pet fur
- Do not smoke inside
- Have your HVAC system evaluated by a specialist
- Use MERV 13 filters
- Use portable HEPA air cleaners
- Reduce occupancy



Smoky Outside or poor outdoor air quality

- Reduce amount of time spent outdoors
- Close windows and doors
- Set your HVAC system to recirculating air through the filter
- Use high efficiency MERV 13 filters
- Wear N95 mask
- Use portable HEPA air cleaners
- Make your own box fan air filter
- Avoid smoking tobacco, using wood-burning stoves, burning candles or vacuuming
- Stay well hydrated
- If you have heart or lung disease or respiratory illness , follow your health care provider's recommendations



Make Your Filter Fan

pscleanair

01:48



IAQ Assessments

Deschutes County can provide technical assistance to improve indoor air quality via a phone consultation or site visit. Please request assistance by [completing this form](#) and determine your eligibility to receive a **free Radon Test Kit**. These assessments measure common indoor contaminants and are generalized air quality profiles only. We do not provide professional HVAC or engineering evaluations. If you have special health concerns or respiratory illness contact your health care provider. Our IAQ assessment will give you a report and help identify possible sources, potential remedies and provide referrals to professional HVAC resources. [Fill out the Indoor Air Quality Assistance Request Form](#)

Temperature and Humidity: The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) provides guidelines that are intended to satisfy the majority of building occupants wearing a normal amount of clothing while working

at a desk. The ASHRAE guidelines recommend 68 F to 74 F in the winter and 72 F to 80 F in the summer. The ASHRAE guidelines recommend a relative humidity (RH) of 30 to 60 percent. While lower humidity may discourage pests, mold and bacterial growth, higher humidity causes virus particles to decay



faster leading to reduced risk of infection.



Carbon Monoxide (CO): is an odorless, colorless gas that is a by-product of the incomplete burning of fuels containing carbon such as wood, gas and oil. Sources include heating appliances such as kerosene and gas space heaters; leaking chimneys and furnaces; back-drafting from furnaces, gas water heaters, wood stoves, and fireplaces. At low concentrations, fatigue in healthy people and chest pain in people with heart disease. At higher concentrations, impaired vision and coordination; headaches; dizziness; confusion; nausea. Can cause flu-like symptoms that clear up after leaving home and can be fatal at very high concentrations.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂): is a colorless, odorless, non-flammable gas that naturally occurs in the atmosphere. CO₂ is produced by body metabolism and is a normal component of exhaled breath. It also results from the burning of fossil fuels and natural sources such as volcanic eruptions. CO₂ levels in outdoor air typically range from 300 to 400 ppm but can be as high as 600-900 ppm in metropolitan areas.



Occupants may experience health effects in buildings where CO₂ is elevated. At high levels, the carbon dioxide itself can cause headache, dizziness, nausea and other symptoms. This could occur when exposed to levels above 5,000 ppm for many hours. At even higher levels of CO₂ can cause asphyxiation as it replaces oxygen in the blood-exposure to concentrations around 40,000 ppm is immediately dangerous to life and health.



Particulates (PM_{2.5}/PM₁₀): Airborne particulate matter, often caused by **wildfire smoke** and vehicle exhaust, are tiny solid or aerosol particles that can be inhaled and have harmful health effects. Exposure to inhalable particles can affect both your lungs and your heart. Small particles (less than 10 micrometers in diameter) can get deep into your lungs, and some may even get into your bloodstream. People with heart or lung diseases such as coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, and asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary

disease (COPD), children and older adults may be at greater risk from PM exposure.

Chemicals (TVOC): Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are a large group of chemicals that are found in many products we use to build and maintain our homes. Once these chemicals are in our homes, they are released or “off-gas” into the indoor air we breathe. They may or may not be able to be smelled, and smelling is not a good indicator of health risk.



Common examples of VOCs that may be present in our daily lives are: benzene, ethylene glycol, formaldehyde, methylene chloride, tetrachloroethylene, toluene, and xylene.

Infographics

Sources of Indoor air pollutants:

<https://www.floridamoldtesting.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/IAQ-infographic-image.jpg>

Wildfire smoke and your health:

https://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/images/Smokewise/OHA_8626_Wildfire_FAQs-v6c_Page_1.jpg

DIY box fan filter:

https://deohs.washington.edu/edge/sites/deohs.washington.edu.edge/files/inline-images/AirFilterInfographic_FINAL.jpg

Contact Information

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Web Links

[Smoke Info - Central Oregon Fire](#)
[Smoke Info - Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality](#)

[IAQ Resources - Environmental Protection Agency](#)
[IAQ Resources - Center for Disease Control](#)
[IAQ Resources - ASHRAE](#)
[IAQ Resources - Sick Building Syndrome](#)
[IAQ Resources - CA Dept. of Public Health Guidance](#)
[Schools - EPA Tools for Schools](#)
[IAQ & COVID-19 - Resources from King County](#)
[American Lung Association](#)



Contact Information

HOURS:

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

Deschutes County Environmental Health
2100 NE Wyatt Ct.
Bend, Oregon 97701

MAILING ADDRESS:

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FOR INTERNAL COORDINATION ONLY

**2024 Deschutes National Forest Prescribed Burn Season
Communications Plan**

Background

The Deschutes National Forest plans to implement prescribed burn operations across the Bend-Fort Rock (Newberry Division), Crescent (Crescent Division) and Sisters (Cascade Division) Ranger Districts this spring and fall. Spring burning is anticipated to begin in early April pending conditions.

Additionally, Central Oregon is one of 21 focal landscapes under the Forest Service’s Wildfire Crisis Strategy. The Central Oregon Landscape covers State, private, and Federal lands on the eastside of the Cascades.

Action

The Deschutes National Forest needs to inform and educate the Central Oregon community around the important role prescribed fire plays in our fire-dependent ecosystems to restore forest health and resiliency while reducing wildfire risk to communities.

Central Oregon consistently sees an influx of new residents who may not be familiar with the robust prescribed burning that the Forest conducts each spring and fall. It’s important to introduce the role of prescribed fire to this audience, as well as ensure they have the resources to be successful in getting timely information about burns, how to avoid smoke impacts and what it means to live with fire.

Prescribed burn operations are slated for high profile locations adjacent to the communities of Bend, Sisters, Sunriver and La Pine. The Deschutes National Forest will work with appropriate partners and agencies to ensure residents near prescribed burn operations are proactively prepared to decrease personal smoke exposure and impacts.

Additionally, operations in West Bend may occur more frequently and in larger acreage increments than past seasons. The Forest will communicate with key partners, stakeholders and agencies ahead of prescribed burning to share plans and potential impacts.

This communications plan is specific to public affairs. Additional communications may be occurring through fire personnel and their specific channels.

Spokespeople

Forest Service Spokespeople	Target Group
Forest Supervisors/Deputy Forest Supervisors	Interested/Concerned Elected Officials, Media Inquiries related to <i>West Bend Pilot Project</i>
Public Affairs Officer	Congressional Staffers
Public Affairs Specialist	County Health Departments, Media, General Public, Local Stakeholders, Local Communicators, Social Media, Website, Internal Communications
Line Officers	Congressional Staffers, Interested/Concerned Elected Officials, Local Stakeholders, Local Communicators
Fire Management Officers	Key Stakeholders, Cross-boundary Communications
Assistant Fire Management Officers - Fuels	Key Stakeholders, Cross-boundary Communications, Smoke Management, Internal Communications
Frontliner Staff	General Public

External Amplification & Spokespeople	Topic
Deschutes, Jefferson & Crook County Public	Smoke Preparedness



External Amplification & Spokespeople	Topic
Health – Sarah Worthington <i>Climate & Health Coordinator</i>	
Bend Fire Department – Melissa Steele <i>Public Information Officer</i>	Amplify Prescribed Burn Communications for West Bend
Discover Your Forest – Emily Curtis <i>Wildland Fire Education Coordinator</i>	Co-host public engagement opportunities and amplify
Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project – Sarah Edwards <i>Outreach Coordinator</i>	Amplify the “why” behind prescribed burning and increase social license for work
Oregon Living with Fire – Jodie Barram <i>Co-coordinator</i>	Coordinate on opportunities to highlight cross-boundary prescribed burning operations
Oregon Department of Transportation – Kacey Davey <i>Public Information Officer</i>	Coordinate on messaging for operations adjacent to roadways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cascade Lakes Hwy – Big Eddy 1, Welcome Station 6 & 8, Tiddlywinks 1,2,3 • Hwy 97 – Rocket Rx, Klone NW, Hwy 97 S units

District PIO Support

District	Individuals	Position
Bend-Fort Rock RD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casey Andrews • Jared Bandor • Molly Baumann • Shannon Berg • Jean Nelson-Dean • Kevin Robinson • Dawn Stender • Travis Surplus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BFR Dispersed Rec Team Lead • PNW Training • BFR Dev Rec Manager • NR Ops Team Lead • AD • COFMS Prevention • BFR Developed Rec Team Lead • Engine 636
Crescent RD	•	•
Sisters RD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren DuRocher • Molly Johnson • Lorelei Mariana • Kevin Robinson • Madison Anderson • Jinny Reed (?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Coordinator • Wilderness Lead Ranger • Frontliner • COFMS Prevention • NEPA • ACES Contract

Communications Objectives *(from Regional Rx and Smoke Management Communications Plan)*

- **Communication Objective 1: Promote Understanding:** Effectively communicate the rationale behind increasing the pace and scale of prescribed fires while minimizing impacts to public health.
- **Communication Objective 2: Build Support:** Garner support from the public, key stakeholders, and other agencies/organizations for the expanded use of prescribed fires and smoke management.
- **Communication Objective 3: Facilitate Collaboration:** Strengthen existing partnerships and foster new collaborations between federal agencies, state and local governments, tribal nations, environmental organizations, and the private sector. Highlighting the Joint Letter of Intent objectives and shared strategies can serve as a call to action for more entities to join in these efforts.
- **Communication Objective 4: Report Progress:** Regularly update stakeholders on the progress of implementing the joint strategies, including the outcomes of prescribed burns, improvements in ecosystem resilience, reductions in wildfire risks, air quality results, and impacts to public health.

Audiences *(from Regional Rx and Smoke Management Communications Plan)*



1. **Employees for each of the involved Agencies:** To inform and educate about the importance of prescribed burns and fuel management in wildfire risk reduction and ecosystem resilience and how smoke can be managed to help minimize impacts to public health.
2. **General Public:** To inform and educate about the importance of prescribed burns and fuel management in wildfire risk reduction and ecosystem resilience and how smoke can be managed to help minimize impacts to public health.
3. **Environmental Organizations:** To engage groups focused on conservation, forest management, and climate change, emphasizing the ecological benefits of the strategies outlined in the Joint Statement of Intent
4. **Healthcare Providers and Public Health Officials:** To foster collaboration and information sharing and inform them of the rationale behind increasing the pace and scale of prescribed fires while minimizing impacts to public health.
5. **Policy Makers and Legislators:** To foster collaboration and information sharing and inform them of the rationale behind increasing the pace and scale of prescribed fires while minimizing impacts to public health.
6. **Industry and Business Leaders:** To inform them of the rationale behind increasing the pace and scale of prescribed fires while minimizing impacts to public health and provide awareness of the upcoming pilot projects.
7. **Tribal Nations and Indigenous Communities:** To respect and integrate traditional ecological knowledge and practices in wildfire management and land stewardship.

General Rollout of Communications Product Timeline

Action Item	Audience	Objectives	Details	Lead	Due Date
Communications Plan	Internal			Jaimie	February 29
Pre-Season Social Media Campaign	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Use DCFP videos, images, Rosland Road video, etc. explaining forest restoration, prescribed burning and proven success using treatments to stop wildfires.	Jaimie	April 1
Joint Press Release w/ Deschutes, Jefferson & Klamath County Public Health	General Public, Environmental Organizations, Healthcare Providers and Public Health Officials, Policy Makers and Legislators, Industry and Business Leaders	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Announcement of Prescribed Burn Season – Press Release (Will include potential high-profile areas, estimated, acreages, smoke & public health messaging, etc. to prepare people for the season	Jaimie & Sarah	April 1
2024 Deschutes NF Rx Handout	General Public, Environmental Organizations, Healthcare Providers and Public Health Officials, Policy Makers and	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Contains one-pager on why we conduct prescribed fire, maps for each district with potential burn units and smoke preparedness resources	Jaimie	March



Action Item	Audience	Objectives	Details	Lead	Due Date
	Legislators, Industry and Business Leaders				
West Bend Rx Handout	General Public (Bend), Environmental Organizations, Healthcare Providers and Public Health Officials, Policy Makers and Legislators, Industry and Business Leaders	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Two-page flyer about prescribed burn operations in West Bend and providing smoke preparedness resources	Jaimie & Sarah	March
Key Messages Document	Frontliners & Partners	Promote Understanding, Build Support	The below key messages will be expanded and distributed to frontliners and field-going staff	Jaimie	March
Prescribed Burn FAQ Document	Frontliners & Partners	Promote Understanding, Build Support	The “Frequently Asked Questions” document will be distributed to frontliners and field-going staff	Jaimie	March
Temporary “Interp” signage for signboard in West Bend	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Set-up signboards at Cascades Lakes Welcome Station, Phils Trailhead and FSR 41 Parking Lot about restoration work in area and planned prescribed burns	Jaimie	March
Public Notification Process (Reoccurring)	General Public (Bend), Environmental Organizations, Healthcare Providers and Public Health Officials, Policy Makers and Legislators, Industry and Business Leaders	Promote Understanding, Build Support, Report Progress	See <i>Prescribed Burn Notification Process</i> Below	Jaimie	Per prescribed burn occurrence

Prescribed Burn Notification Process To Public (conducted for all understory burns)

Action Item	Timeframe	Platform(s)
Social Media – Preparing people for prescribed fire season and where they can find resources	March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posted to “CentralORFire” Twitter Posted to Deschutes NF Twitter & Facebook



Action Item	Timeframe	Platform(s)
Press Release – Stating the intention to burn, location, acres, etc.	1 to 3 days prior to planned ignitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminated to “Media” and “Prescribed Fire” and targeted area email distribution lists Posted to CentralOregonFire.org website’s blog, which is featured on homepage Posted under “News & Events” on Deschutes National Forest website
Social Media Notifications – Stating the intention to burn, location, acres, etc.	1 to 3 days prior to planned ignitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posted to “CentralORFire” Twitter Posted to Deschutes NF Twitter & Facebook
Text Alerts – Stating intent to burn	1 hour prior to ignitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text alert including <i>Prescribed Fire: Ignitions @ time on acres, __ miles __ of town. Smoke or road impacts</i> sent to subscribers who have texted “COFIRE” to 888-777
Social Media Notifications – Stating that test fire is underway	Test Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posted to “CentralORFire” Twitter Posted to Deschutes NF Twitter & Facebook
Social Media – Updates as pertinent throughout operations, including test fire successful, percentage of ignitions complete, smoke impacts/dispersal, holding/mop-up, completed ignitions, etc.	During/post ignitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posted to “CentralORFire” Twitter Posted to Deschutes NF Twitter & Facebook (as relevant)
*Press Release – Sent in the event that a planned burn is cancelled	Day of cancellation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminated to “Media” and “Prescribed Fire” and targeted area email distribution lists Posted to CentralOregonFire.org website’s blog, which is featured on homepage Posted under “News & Events” on Deschutes National Forest website
*Social Media – Sent in the event that a planned burn is cancelled	Day of cancellation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posted to “CentralORFire” Twitter Posted to Deschutes NF Twitter & Facebook

Resources for External Audiences

Resource	Content	Location
<i>CentralOregonFire</i> website	Blog posts with updates on planned prescribed burn operations, Twitter feed to provide access to those without Twitter accounts, smoke and health information, and air quality resources	Centraloregonfire.org
Interactive Prescribed Fire Map	This map highlights what prescribed burn units have the potential of being burned this year	centraloregonfire.org/prescribed-fire-smoke-plans/
Smoke & Air Quality Map	Air quality map	centraloregonfire.org/smoke-air-quality/
CentralORFire Twitter account	Posts highlighting planned burn operations, status of understory burns underway, smoke impacts,	@CentralORFire - Twitter



Resource	Content	Location
	road/trail impacts, etc.	
Deschutes National Forest Twitter & Facebook accounts	Posts highlighting planned burn operations, status of understory burns underway, smoke impacts, road/trail impacts, etc.	Deschutes NF Twitter & Facebook
Text Alerts	Receive text alerts about prescribed burns & wildfires	Text "COFIRE" to 888-777
West Bend Rx & Smoke Preparedness Handout	Contains information on prescribed burning in West Bend and smoke preparedness resources (Spanish/Chinese Translation)	Hand out for events and front desks
2024 Deschutes NF Rx & Smoke Preparedness Handout	Contains information on why we conduct prescribed fire and smoke preparedness resources (Spanish/Chinese Translation)	Hand out for events and front desks
Map Handouts	Map products paired with general Rx hand out developed for each division	Hand out for events and front desks
West Bend Pilot Project 2-Pager	Developed by West Bend Pilot Project outreach branch describing MOU & efforts around Pilot Project	Hand out for events and front desks

Opportunities for Public Engagement

Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District (Newberry Division) – General Operations

Event/Resource	Timeframe	Audience	Objectives	Overview
Wildfire Preparedness Fair - Bend	April 7 (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)	General Public, Industry & Business Leaders	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Opportunity to share prescribed burn plans during a tabling fair with other agencies (Oregon State Fire Marshal, Bend Fire, Deschutes County Public Health, Deschutes County Emergency Management, Project Wildfire, etc.) – opportunity for public to learn what Forest Service is doing to prepare for wildfire season while gathering resources for how they can prepare.
Wildfire Preparedness Fair – La Pine	May 11 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)	General Public, Industry & Business Leaders	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Opportunity to share prescribed burn plans during a tabling fair with other agencies (Oregon State Fire Marshal, La Pine Rural Fire District, Deschutes County Public Health, Deschutes County Emergency Management, Project Wildfire, etc.) – opportunity for public to learn what Forest Service is doing to prepare for



Event/Resource	Timeframe	Audience	Objectives	Overview
				wildfire season while gathering resources for how they can prepare.
High Desert Museum Natural History Pub	March 4 (5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Speaker event focused on our fire-dependent ecosystem and the reality that smoke is a part of this landscape.
Discover Your Forest hosted <i>Wildfire Crisis Strategy</i> Trivia Night: Bridge 99	March 12 (5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	A trivia night hosted by Discover Your Forest, Deschutes National Forest and Ochoco National Forest & Crooked River National Grassland focused on forest, ecosystem and fire-related questions
Community Resource Huddle – Pacific Source	Quarterly Meeting – March 14	Healthcare Providers & Public Health Officials	Promote Understanding, Build Support, Facilitate collaboration	Quarterly meeting for community behavioral and clinical professionals – Share upcoming prescribed burn plans & smoke preparedness
Deschutes County Public Health – Key Providers & Stakeholders Meeting	March	Healthcare Providers & Public Health Officials	Promote Understanding, Build Support, Facilitate collaboration	Share smoke preparedness and prescribed burn plans
Deschutes County Newsletter	March	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Include snippet on upcoming prescribed burn season and smoke preparedness in newsletter to subscribers
Deschutes County Public Health Newsletter	March	General Public, Healthcare Providers & Public Health Officials	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Include snippet on upcoming prescribed burn season and smoke preparedness in newsletter to subscribers
Deschutes County Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities – targeted messaging	March/April	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Inform clients about upcoming prescribed burning and provide smoke preparedness messaging
Visit Bend & Visit Central Oregon Quarterly Call	March 21	General Public, Industry & Business Leaders	Promote Understanding, Build Support, Facilitate collaboration	Provide broad overview of prescribed burn season plans, including recreation impacts in West Bend, paired with smoke and public health resources
Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project – Outreach Subcommittee Presentation	March 18	General Public, Environmental Organizations,	Promote Understanding, Build Support,	Presented on upcoming prescribed burn plans and associated communications



Event/Resource	Timeframe	Audience	Objectives	Overview
		Policy Makers & Legislators, Industry & Business Communities	Facilitate collaboration	and outreach efforts; looked for ways to collaborate
Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project –Prescribed Fire Subcommittee Presentation	March 18	General Public, Environmental Organizations, Policy Makers & Legislators, Industry & Business Communities	Promote Understanding, Build Support, Facilitate collaboration	Presented on upcoming prescribed burn plans and associated communications and outreach efforts; looked for ways to collaborate
La Pine Senior Center	April 10 (10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Join Sarah Worthington to chat with folks during lunch time about upcoming prescribed burn season and smoke preparedness
Meals on Wheels	April	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Provide General Rx / Smoke Preparedness Two-Pager to <i>Meals on Wheels</i> clients
Deschutes County Library	April	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Provide smoke preparedness resources in reoccurring newsletter for older residents
Bend-La Pine School District Distribution	April	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Provide General Rx / Smoke Preparedness Two-Pager to parents
Lava Lands Visitor Center / Lava Butte / Lava River Cave	During Operations	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Coordinate with staff to provide operational updates to staff to share with visitors. Emily Curtis (DYF) will be on site to provide prescribed burn information.
South Deschutes County VIP Tour	TBD	Environmental Organizations, Policy Makers & Legislators, Industry & Business Communities	Promote Understanding, Build Support, Facilitate collaboration	Provide opportunity for local elected officials, media partners and key stakeholders from South Deschutes County to participate in a prescribed burn operation from briefing through ignitions. Burn Options: Odin or Thor Units
Discover Your Forest hosted <i>Wildfire Crisis Strategy</i> Trivia Night: Wetlands Tap House	TBD	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Continuing our series of local trivia nights that include a round of <i>Wildfire Crisis Strategy</i> -themed trivia questions within existing trivia



Event/Resource	Timeframe	Audience	Objectives	Overview
				nights.
Onsite PIO Presence	As Needed	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	High Profile Burns – Big Eddy, Welcome Station, Tiddlywinks, Rocket SW & NW, Klone, Hwy 97, Odin North, Thor, Pine Mountain

Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District (Newberry Division) – West Bend Operations (also encompasses all items listed for Newberry Division – General Operations)

Event	Timeframe	Audience	Objectives	Overview
Outfitter & Guide / key stakeholder meeting – <i>Deschutes NF SO</i>	March 7 (1-3 p.m.)	Industry & Business Leaders	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Provide overview of planned West Bend operations, how anticipated operations will impact guiding operations, recreation access and notification process. See Contact List spreadsheet for list of invitees.
Neighborhood Associations & HOA Outreach	April 15	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Send targeted emails to all Bend neighborhood associations and HOAs for communities adjacent to West Bend. POCs will be added to “Prescribed Burn” PDL
Widgi Creek HOA Wildfire Safety Event – <i>Widgi Creek Clubhouse</i>	March 13 (9-10 a.m.)	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Short presentation on planned operations during Bend Fire-hosted event for resident to get information on home hardening
Bend Senior Services Center	March 27 (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.)	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Join Sarah Worthington to chat with folks during lunch time about upcoming prescribed burn season and smoke preparedness
Deschutes River Woods Community Meeting – Deschutes River Woods Church	March 27	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Join Bend Fire during their community meeting on fuels treatment work adjacent to railroad; present on West Bend operations and Cabin Butte Vegetation Management Project
Summit West HOA Wildfire Preparedness Event – <i>Deschutes Library – Downtown Branch</i>	March 28 (3-8 p.m.)	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Tabling opportunity to reach Summit West residents with information on planned operations
DHS - Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities	March/April	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Send out messaging to geofenced consumers to contact with information about



Event	Timeframe	Audience	Objectives	Overview
				upcoming prescribed burning and provide smoke preparedness messaging
Temporary Interpretation Boards	April	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Place temporary interpretive messaging at Phil’s Trailhead, FSR 41 Road Parking Area and Cascade Lakes Welcome Station
Forest Stewards	Operational Shift & Post Operations	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Expand public engagement opportunities through the use of Forest Stewards at locations like Pilot Butte where smoke column would be highly visible. Use existing Forest Steward presence at Phil’s Trailhead and Cascade Lakes Welcome Station to speak to post-burn landscape and safety messages
Joint Information Opportunities	As Appropriate	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Pair traditional PIO support with Deschutes County Public Health representation – potentially at Cascade Lakes Welcome Station
Cascade Lakes Welcome Station	Memorial Day Weekend - June	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Coordinate with staff to provide operational updates to staff to share with visitors (Potential staffing starting Memorial Day weekend; Friday – Monday)
Public Tour	TBD	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Partner with Discover Your Forest to provide opportunities for members of the public to view prescribed burn operations. Provide tabling opportunities at Cascade Lakes Welcome Station. Potential tabling reps: Deschutes County Public Health, Oregon Living With Fire, Forest Stewards, etc. Send targeted invites to adjacent communities, but open to general public. Burn Operation: Big Eddy Block 1
Key Stakeholders Tour	TBD	Employees of	Promote	Partner with Oregon Living



Event	Timeframe	Audience	Objectives	Overview
		Involved Agencies, Environmental Organizations, Healthcare Providers & Public Health Officials, Policy Makers & Legislators, Industry & Business Communities	Understanding, Build Support, Facilitate Collaboration, Report Progress	with Fire to provide opportunity for local elected officials, media partners and key stakeholders to participate in a prescribed burn operation from briefing through ignitions. Burn Options: Tiddlywinks 4/8/9 or Big Eddy 2/3
Onsite PIO Presence	All Rx Ops	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	High Profile Burns – Big Eddy, Welcome Station, Tiddlywinks, PFTC COD 8 Burn, Taylor Northwest (Cross Boundary)
Post-Burn Tour for Pilot Project Stakeholders	July	Employees of Involved Agencies	Promote Understanding, Build Support, Facilitate Collaboration, Report Progress	Provide opportunity for pilot project agencies representatives to visit areas treated in West Bend Rx, look at units 2-5 year post burn and discuss lessons learned.

Crescent Ranger District (Crescent Division) – General Operations

Event	Timeframe	Audience	Objectives	Overview
Wildfire Preparedness Fair – La Pine	May 11 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Opportunity to share prescribed burn plans during a tabling fair with other agencies (Oregon State Fire Marshal, La Pine Rural Fire District, Deschutes County Public Health, Deschutes County Emergency Management, Project Wildfire, etc.) – opportunity for public to learn what Forest Service is doing to prepare for wildfire season while gathering resources for how they can prepare.
Onsite PIO Presence	TBD	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	High Profile Burns – Unit on Hwy 97 (5 Miles Unit 12)

Sisters Ranger District (Cascade Division) – General Operations



Event	Timeframe	Audience	Objectives	Overview
Wildfire Preparedness Fair - Sisters	March 20 (5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Opportunity to share prescribed burn plans during a tabling fair with other agencies (Oregon State Fire Marshal, Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Department, Deschutes County Public Health, Deschutes County Emergency Management, Project Wildfire, etc.) – opportunity for public to learn what Forest Service is doing to prepare for wildfire season while gathering resources for how they can prepare.
Sister Open House	April 9 (5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Provide overview of fuels program and prescribed burn operations this year to attendees.
Deschutes County Library Newsletter	April	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Provide smoke preparedness resources in reoccurring newsletter for older residents
Cross-Boundary Deschutes Land Trust & The Nature Conservancy Pre-Burn Tour	April 25 (4 – 5 p.m.)	General Public, Environmental Organizations, Industry & Business Communities	Promote Understanding, Build Support, Facilitate Collaboration	Opportunity to share with public about planned prescribed burn operations on Deschutes Land Trust’s Metolius Preserve
Cross-Boundary Deschutes Land Trust & The Nature Conservancy Post-Burn Tour	June 6 (2 – 4:30 p.m.)	General Public, Environmental Organizations, Industry & Business Communities	Promote Understanding, Build Support, Facilitate Collaboration, Report Progress	Public tour the Deschutes Land Trust’s Metolius Preserve once prescribed burn has been completed
Public Tours	TBD	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Partner with Discover Your Forest to provide opportunities for member or the public to view prescribed burn operations.
In-Town PIO Presence	As Needed	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Work in coordination with district staff and Emily Curtis (DYF) to provide presence in relevant locations within community to provide information during prescribed burn operations, particularly



Event	Timeframe	Audience	Objectives	Overview
				those that are adjacent or highly visible to Sisters.
Deschutes County Newsletter	April	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Include snippet on upcoming prescribed burn season and smoke preparedness in newsletter to subscribers
Deschutes County Public Health Newsletter	April	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Include snippet on upcoming prescribed burn season and smoke preparedness in newsletter to subscribers
Deschutes County Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Quarterly Calls	March/April	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	Inform clients about upcoming prescribed burning and provide smoke preparedness messaging
Onsite PIO Presence	Operational Shifts	General Public	Promote Understanding, Build Support	High Profile Burns – Highway 20 IFR Units, SAFR Units near town, Metolius Basin Units, Deschutes Land Trust (Cross Boundary)

Key Messages

Central Oregon Ecosystem

- For over a century, National Forests grew unnaturally dense due to aggressive fire suppression, historic forest practices and the end of cultural fire use by Indigenous people.
 - Ponderosa pine forests historically received low intensity fire every 5-20 years and thus typically had 40 to 60 healthy trees of all sizes per acre.
 - Today, without having frequent low intensity fires for more than a century, many of these once open areas become dense forests with hundreds of trees per acre that burn with a high intensity and can carry fire into the crowns of trees making it harder for successful natural regeneration.
- Climate change is making the fire and fuels problem worse by reducing snow and rainfall and by increasing hot and dry weather.
 - Low precipitation means drought-stressed trees are susceptible to insect infestation. Longer fire seasons and less precipitation mean these fuels are drier and capable of burning for longer periods throughout the year.
- Timber removal is a part of the process to restore ecological balance and benefit local economies. Mechanical treatments are utilized to thin overgrown areas on the landscape and reduce the vegetation loading to prepare for the reintroduction of low-intensity fire through prescribed burning. Science shows that the combination of thinning and prescribed burning is the most effective way to restore healthy forests and reduce wildfire risk to our communities.
- Fire plays an integral role in Central Oregon’s ecosystem. Some of the things we love most about our landscape, like Ponderosa pines, require frequent low-intensity fire to sustain. Smoke is inevitably one component of the dynamic role that fire plays within our ecosystem.

Prescribed Burning

- Our communities and local economies depend on healthy ecosystems and watersheds. Prescribed burning is a critical tool that leverages a natural process to help foster ecosystem health and decrease fire risk to communities.

- Prescribed burns, which are primarily conducted in spring and fall, are carefully planned and implemented under specific conditions of temperature, wind, and humidity.
 - These prescribed conditions help to ensure that the fire burns with a low-intensity and reduces the likelihood that heavy smoke will blow into nearby communities. Nonetheless, some smoke in the air is inevitable.
- Prescribed burns are conducted by professionals with a strong ecological understanding of fire-dependent forests, applying decades of on-the-ground knowledge, and cutting-edge fire and smoke modeling tools.
- All prescribed burns must comply with the Oregon Department of Forestry Smoke Management standards to minimize impacts to communities and sensitive individuals.
- For Central Oregonians, our choice is not between "lots of fire" or "no fire". We must choose between an unhealthy forest full of nearly a century of unburned fuel, or a restored forest that is resilient to the natural process of fire.
- Short duration impacts like smoke or trail closures are often a part of the critical work associated with reducing wildfire risk to our communities and the places that we love.
 - We understand that it can feel frustrating, but these short duration impacts mean that firefighters and forestry practitioners are doing what they can to protect your home, our drinking water sources, Central Oregon's economy and everything that makes this landscape special for the immediate generation and sustaining into the future.

Smoke Readiness

- Firefighters work with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Forestry smoke forecasters to identify conditions that will minimize smoke impacts on people and communities.
- Smoke in the air is inevitable, and a sign that forest restoration and hazardous fuels reduction work is taking place, making our communities safer and forests healthier.
- While prescribed fire managers take significant preventive measures, it's likely that communities may experience some smoke during or immediately after a prescribed burn.
- Prescribed burning smoke impacts are typically short duration when compared to longer duration wildfire smoke events. Smoke impacts are often at night or in early morning hours. Smoke from wildfires, on the other hand, may last for days or weeks.
- Many factors influence a person's sensitivity to smoke, including severity and duration of smoke exposure and a person's health.
- Ways to protect your health from smoke during prescribed burns:
 - Close your windows at night- this is when the smoke tends to be the highest.
 - Talk to your health team and make a plan if you have heart or lung disease, asthma, or other chronic conditions.
 - Be willing to change your plans to avoid smoke. The [Air Quality Index \(AQI\)](#) tells us when it is safe to be outdoors.
 - Visit [Deschutes County Extreme Weather Operations](#) to find cleaner air spaces.
 - Keep indoor air as clean as possible.
 - Close windows
 - Limit activities that pollute the air inside your home (vacuuming, burning incense, frying foods)
 - Set your air system to recirculate (in home and while driving)
 - Consider using a MERV 8 or higher filter in your air system, if you have one

- Use an air purifier or a box fan air filter ([Learn how to make a box fan filter](#))
 - Wear an N95 mask for extreme smoke or long periods of time outside

2024 West Bend Prescribed Burning Pilot Project

- As wildfires increase in size and severity, the related public health impacts, including those from smoke exposure, will continue to grow. These risks are acute in the Pacific Northwest and Central Oregon, where communities are proximate to landscapes where wildfire occurs and threatens public health and safety.
 - At the same time, increasing the application of prescribed burning in a strategic and coordinated manner is needed to mitigate the risk and adverse effects of high severity wildfire and future smoke exposure.
- In 2023, the Government Accountability Office called upon the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Interior (DOI) to better align air quality and land management goals for wildfire risk mitigation.
- USDA, DOI, EPA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are working together under a Memorandum of Understanding to protect public health from smoke impacts while enabling land management practices that reduce the future risk of large, high severity fire events.
- A tabletop exercise last fall that included members from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon Health Agency (OHA) and local community and tribal representatives paved the way for this spring’s West Bend Prescribed Fire Pilot Project.
- A team with representatives from the Forest Service, EPA, ODF, DEQ, and OHA are tasked with understanding the challenges of increasing prescribed fire implementation and work collaboratively to address challenges, especially around regulatory framework necessary to accomplish prescribed burn operations in West Bend.
- The West Bend Project Area was chosen for this pilot project due to the potential to mitigate risk of catastrophic wildfire in the wildland urban interface of Bend.
- The pilot project is focused on identifying ways to increase the pace and scale of fuels treatments to decrease wildfire risk to communities while minimizing negative health impacts.
 - The desired outcome is to increase the application of prescribed burning to meet ecological and community risk reduction goals that have been difficult to achieve.

Prescribed Burn Operational Safety

- The safety of our firefighters and our neighboring communities is our primary goal. We need prescribed fire to make these communities safe in the long-term, but it can’t come at the expense of safety in the short run.
 - Wildfire mitigation, wildland firefighting, and many other land management activities we perform are inherently dangerous.
 - When that work does not go as planned, it is imperative that we learn from those experiences.
 - All prescribed fire plans require enhanced review to ensure we can continue this important work with the proper oversight.
 - We continue to seek opportunities to work with states and partners, as well as with tribes – across boundaries – to create more fire-resilient communities and improve firefighter safety.
 - Our employees are part of these communities.
 - We all have a vested interest in protecting them from the threat of wildland fire and using lessons learned to make a safer future for everyone.

Wildfire Crisis Strategy

- This work is occurring within the Central Oregon Landscape, one of 21 focal landscapes identified within the Forest Service’s Wildfire Crisis Strategy. The implementation of this work supports the Deschutes National Forest’s commitment to addressing the Wildfire Crisis Strategy which aims to reduce severity of wildfires,



protect communities, and improve the health and resiliency of fire-dependent forests.

- The goal for the Central Oregon Landscape is to substantially reduce wildfire risk across the landscape to protect communities, infrastructure and natural resources by using a shared stewardship approach to restoration.
- This area is rich in collaboration and has been a leader in implementing the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program, Joint Chief's Projects, and National Cohesive Strategy. Additional investments will continue to reduce the risk of fire transfer to numerous, growing communities and critical infrastructure and build upon work already accomplished.
- Central Oregon is experiencing the most extensive community growth in the State with some communities increasing almost 30 percent in the past 10 years. Hundreds of thousands of acres of Federal land are immediately adjacent to communities and subdivisions, which puts those communities and subdivisions at risk of fire.
- Implementation of landscape scale cross-boundary projects through cohesive partnerships will conserve and restore forested landscapes while reducing wildfire risk and impact to life, property, and economic assets in and adjacent to the communities of Bend (R6 Tier 1 Wildfire Risk), Sisters (#1 at risk Oregon Fireshed), Sunriver (#6 at risk Oregon Fireshed), La Pine, and Crescent.