

CENTRAL OREGON FIRE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

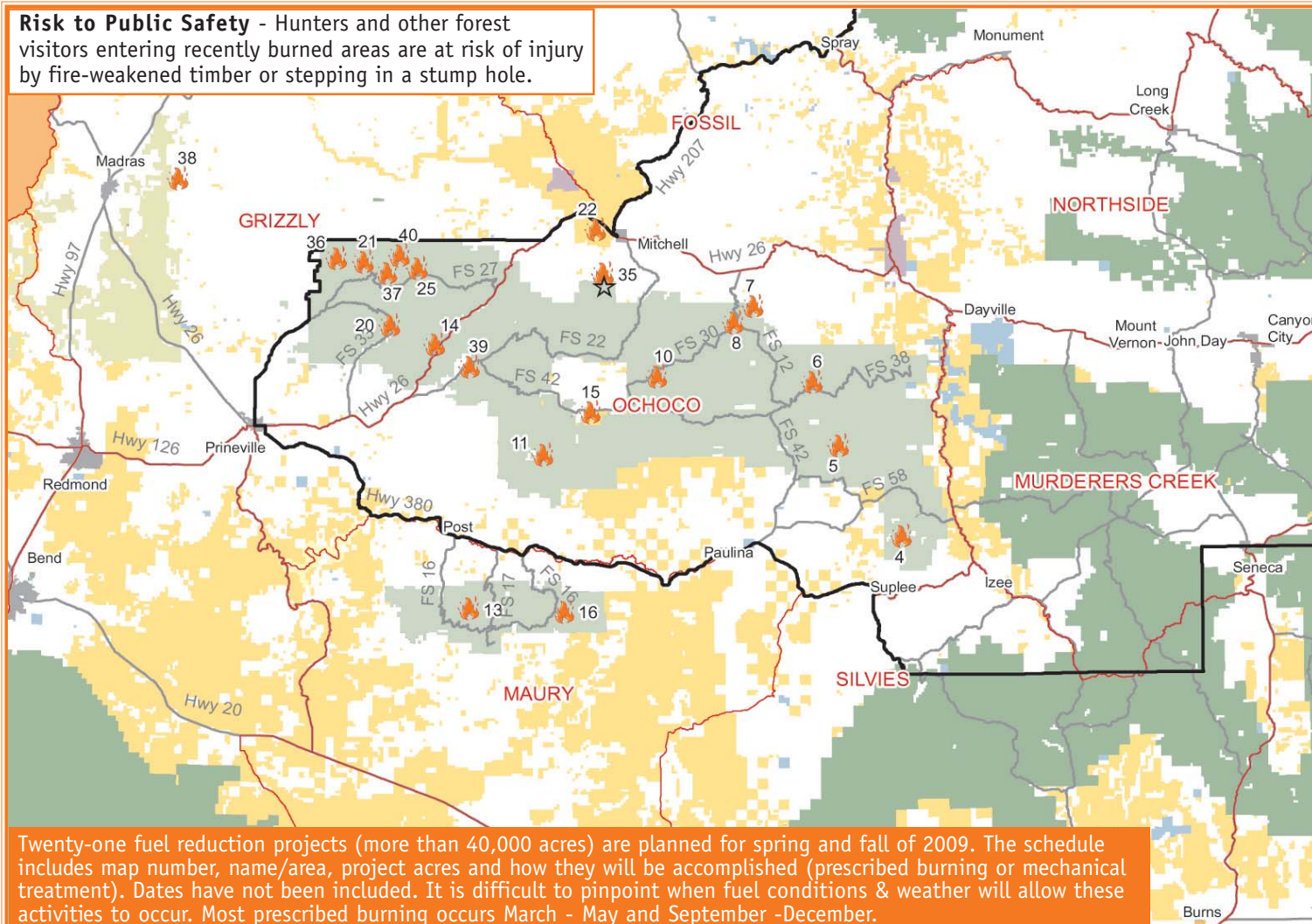
2009 HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROGRAM

PRAIRIE DIVISION

PRINEVILLE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT,
OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST, & CROOKED RIVER NATIONAL GRASSLAND



Risk to Public Safety - Hunters and other forest visitors entering recently burned areas are at risk of injury by fire-weakened timber or stepping in a stump hole.



Twenty-one fuel reduction projects (more than 40,000 acres) are planned for spring and fall of 2009. The schedule includes map number, name/area, project acres and how they will be accomplished (prescribed burning or mechanical treatment). Dates have not been included. It is difficult to pinpoint when fuel conditions & weather will allow these activities to occur. Most prescribed burning occurs March - May and September -December.

More Information

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OR

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GENERAL FIRE INFORMATION

Visit the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center Website:

www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregonfire

TO REPORT A FIRE call
911 or
1-800-314-2560

U.S. Forest Service (FS) indicated by black color

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) indicated by orange color

HFR = Hazardous Fuels Reduction

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| 04 - Willowpine: 1,000 acres of HFR | 20 - Rocky: 600 acres, HFR |
| 05 - Upper Beaver: 4,500 acres, wildland urban interface HFR around Rager Ranger Station | 21 - Trout: 350 acres, fire re-introduction |
| 06 - Flat Bucket: 1,500 acres, HFR | 22 - Gable Creek: 300 acres, HFR, prescribed burn |
| 07 - Barn: 500 acres, HFR | 25 - Fishsticks: 175 acres, HFR |
| 08 - Fryton: 450 acres, HFR & grapple pile burning, Fry Creek area | 35 - White Butte: 120 acres, thinning and machine pile burning |
| 10 - Zane: 900 acres, HFR | 36 - Foley: 375 acres, HFR |
| 11 - Gray Prairie: 1,000 acres fuels treatment | 37 - Catfish: 154 acres, HFR |
| 13 - West Maury: 10,000 acres, HFR | 38 - Monner Springs: 600 acres, HFR and habitat improvement |
| 14 - Spears: 1,800 acres, Marks Creek area | 39- Ochoco Valley: 1000 acres, Wildland Urban Interface HFR |
| 15 - South Prairie: 400 acres, HFR | 40- Bull: 450 acres, HFR |
| 16 - East Maury: 15,000 acres, fuels treatment | |

Who plans hazard fuel reduction projects?

Hazard fuel reduction projects reduce the unnatural build-up of fuel in the forest. Fuels can be *natural fuels*, (forest vegetation or debris) *activity fuels* (debris left over from woodcutters or forest thinning projects) or *ladder fuels* (small trees or brush that carry a ground fire up into the canopy).

Resource specialists and fire managers from the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon State Department of Forestry work closely together planning, implementing and monitoring hazard fuel reduction projects. Project locations and treatment methods are chosen carefully, with specific objectives. Land management agencies coordinate prescribed burning with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to ensure compliance with national clean air standards.



Why burn?

✚ **Reduce** hazard fuels which lessens wildfire intensity making them easier to control and reduces suppression costs.

✚ **Maintain and improve** forest health by recycling nutrients, decreasing competition for water and sunlight and increasing resistance to bugs and disease.

✚ **Improve** wildlife habitat by increasing food supplies such as native grasses, forbs and shrubs.

What about the smoke it creates?

Smoke from prescribed burning is a short-term effect of restoring healthy forests and is a mere fraction of the amount of smoke generated by high-intensity wildfires.

Most smoke from prescribed fires disperses quickly. Fire managers monitor the smoke from their burns, and try to avoid burning during poor smoke dispersal conditions.

The goal is to have prescribed fires burn quickly, cleanly, under control and for smoke to be carried up and away from the area. Conditions are



watched constantly and many times, scheduled burns are cancelled at the last minute if things aren't right for meeting that goal. Weather and winds are unpredictable and there is always a chance that smoke will end up in the valleys.

Does prescribed fire protect private property?

Private property may benefit from a nearby hazard fuels reduction project, though there are no guarantees. Reducing forest fuels reduces flame lengths, increasing the ability of firefighters to safely protect a home. Prescribed fire also reduces potential for long-distance spotting from a wildfire.

Homeowners can increase the chances of their homes surviving wildfire by creating *survivable* space around their property. For more information visit: www.firefree.org.

How long will it take to reduce hazardous fuels?

It is safe to assume that prescribed burning and mechanical treatments such as thinning and mowing will continue to be important tools for improving and maintaining forest and grassland health for years to come. With the assistance of new administrative processes and funding made available through legislation such as the Healthy Forests Restoration Act and the Healthy Forest Initiative, land management agencies will continually look for ways to accomplish the work to be done.

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects – In March of 2009, the Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests were awarded approximately \$5 million of economic stimulus dollars to complete hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest administered lands in Central Oregon. The stimulus-funded fuels reduction work is being done in addition to the fuels treatment projects described in this flyer. The money received was distributed between Deschutes County (\$1.9 million), Jefferson County (\$1.9 million) and Crook County (\$.9 million).

The primary objective of the stimulus dollars was to create new jobs in the private sector. Local contract crews are completing important hazardous fuels reduction work in various locations, thinning the overcrowded trees and piling the woody debris. This work helps create healthier forests that are more resilient and resistant to the spread of catastrophic wildfires.

