

Controlled Burn Planned Near 2003 Davis Fire

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Deschutes National Forest and Walker Range Fire Patrol Association fire specialists plan to conduct a 90-acre controlled burn Monday, October 23, near where the Davis Fire burned 21,181 acres south of Wickiup Reservoir in 2003.

The Deschutes National Forest burn will be about a mile south of the Wickiup Acres Subdivision and adjacent to a road fire managers used to stop the fire, after it forced the community to be evacuated. It is part of strategic fuels treatments intended to reduce brush and woody debris that can feed wildland fires burning from the national forest into residential areas.

Residents in La Pine, Crescent and nearby subdivisions will be able to see smoke from the burn.

All controlled burns are weather-dependent and completed in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry smoke management plan. Fire specialists will postpone the burn if winds are not forecasted to disperse smoke to less-populated areas.

Smoke often settles with cold air in low areas during evening and morning hours even when afternoon winds have been favorable. Residents near the controlled burn should keep doors and windows closed at those times.

Firefighters trained in the use of prescribed fire will ignite the burn and patrol it for several days to ensure it does not cross containment lines.

The human-caused Davis Fire started June 28, 2003, in dense lodgepole pine stands near the East Davis Lake Campground. Smoke columns billowed 20,000 feet over the fire as it grew more than 15,000 acres in 48 hours, forcing firefighters from firelines and Wickiup Acres Subdivision residents from homes.

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