

Deschutes National Forest begins controlled burns west of Bend

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

BEND, Ore. — Deschutes National Forest fuel specialists are planning to conduct a series of controlled burns covering 100-140 acres through the month of March. The units are located between the 46 road (Mt. Bachelor road) and the Deschutes River, approximately two miles west of Bend.

This area will be burned to reduce the hazardous fuels and decrease the risk of catastrophic fire, as well as provide defensible space for the west side of Bend. The goal is to conduct low-intensity drip-line burns on multiple units, with 10-15 acres treated each day.

The units identified for treatment are located adjacent to the Widgi Creek subdivision but since the daily burn size is fairly small, the expected smoke impact should be minimal.

All controlled burns are weather-dependent and completed in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry smoke management plan. Although smoke impacts are expected to be minimal, the 46 Road may be signed to identify the burn areas for residents and motorists. If smoke drifts onto roadways, motorists should reduce speeds and turn on headlights.

The burn may be postponed to a later date if weather conditions are unfavorable.

For more information, contact Tim Bisby at the Bend Fort Rock Ranger District at (541) 383-4000.

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