

Controlled burn planned near McKenzie Highway, Sisters

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

SISTERS, Ore. — Deschutes National Forest fuel specialists, in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry, are planning a controlled burn near Sisters today, May 7th. The burn will be located south of the McKenzie Highway (approximate three miles west of Sisters) and directly adjacent to the Crossroads subdivision. This 60-acre underburn is part of a series of controlled burns designed to reduce fuels on federal lands surrounding the Crossroads subdivision. The objective of the project is to reduce brush and woody debris that can feed wildfires such as the 9,400-acre Black Crater Fire, which forced the evacuation of two subdivisions before it was contained in August 2006. Depending on weather conditions, fuel specialists may be burning an additional 120 acres of Deschutes National Forest lands adjacent to Crossroads later in the week.

All controlled burns are weather-dependent and completed in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry smoke management plan. Smoke might settle with cooler air in evening and morning hours, even with favorable winds, so nearby residents should close windows and doors to keep smoke out of structures during the day and first few evenings after the burn. The burn may be postponed to a later date if weather conditions are unfavorable. For more information, contact Sisters Ranger District at (541) 549-7700.

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