

NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest
765 S. Main Street, Colville, WA 99114, www.fs.usda.gov/colville

Contact: Franklin Pemberton, 509.684.7177

September 10, 2016

Fall Prescribed Burning Starting Across the Colville National Forest

Colville, WA (September 10, 2016) – Colville National Forest Fire Managers are keeping a close eye on the weather and moisture conditions on the Colville National Forest. When Moisture levels and expected smoke dispersion patterns are within Washington State smoke management standards crews will begin the fall prescribed burning season immediately and will continue operations into early winter.

Residents of the Colville Valley and those traveling near the Columbia River and on Highway 20 west (Sherman Pass scenic byway) may see smoke west of Lake Roosevelt near Paradise Peak in the South Fork of Sherman Creek drainage. This prescribe fire will be highly visible from Kettle Falls, WA and those traveling over Sherman Pass or recreating on Lake Roosevelt . The Paradise Peak Project is located approximately 12 miles west of Kettle Falls.

The objective of these prescribed fires is to reduce the accumulation of dense undergrowth to reduce fire danger and to improve wildlife and big game wildlife habitat. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation supports these prescribed fire objectives and provides grant funding to the Forest Service to help fund these efforts. This project is also part of the larger Paradise Peak Big Game Improvement Project, which also includes other large prescribed fire units and thinning units. The size of the project is roughly 5,500 acres specifically addressed and designed to improve big game habitat and forage. Crews will be treating 850 acres this fall with prescribed fire.

Motorists and residents along Highway 395 and Deadman Creek can expect to see smoke from the Deadman Creek drainage area. Motorists and residents along Aladdin Road can expect to see smoke in the Aladdin Mountain, Lone Hill, and Meadow Lake area northeast of Colville.

-MORE-



for the greatest good

NEWS RELEASE
Continued

For more information on these specific prescribed fires, please call the Three Rivers Ranger District at (509) 738-7700.

Residents and visitors in the Pend Oreille Valley and those traveling up Highway 20 can expect to see smoke on both sides of the valley from Furport, north to Lone. Crews will be treating 300 acres with helicopter-based ignition in the LeClerc Creek/Hanlon Mountain area and 600 acres in the Ruby Creek area. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation supports these prescribed fire objectives and provides grant funding to the forest service to help fund these efforts.

An additional 200 acres of slash will be treated in the Flowery Trail area as well as 100 acres of slash burning in the Scotchman Lake area. Please contact the Newport Ranger Station at (509) 447-7300 for more information.

Residents in Republic, Malo and the Curlew Valley can expect to see smoke East of Curlew Lake, from Lambert Creek, Herron Creek, as well as Northwest of Curlew near Vulcan Mountain. North of Republic, smoke may be visible from North and West Fork Trout Creek area. South of Republic smoke may be visible from Hwy 21 near Scatter Creek from pile burning in the Swan Lake area. Folks traveling on the West side of Sherman pass may also see smoke from pile burning in the Karamip vicinity. In the Curlew/Malo area crews will be treating 75 acres of residual vegetation treatment debris. In the Trout Creek areas crews will be treating some residual debris from a vegetation project for a total of 160 acres. In the Vulcan area crews will be treating 450 acres. Please contact the Republic Ranger Station at (509) 775-7400 for more information.

Since air quality is a major consideration during prescribed fire operations, crews may suspend burning operation if conditions warrant or if smoke begins to impact local communities. If you plan on recreating or hunting near these project areas, make sure you understand your location relative to burn units. In order to ensure you have the latest information on prescribed fires on the Colville National Forest please visit contact your local ranger station.

-END-

The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.



for the greatest good