



## Forest Service News Release

Contact Title:

Mary Hamisevicz (541) 620-4750

Shawna Clark (541) 575-3008

[malheur\\_public\\_information@usda.gov](mailto:malheur_public_information@usda.gov)

[www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur)

### Prescribed Fire Operations Update

**John Day, Prairie City and Hines, OR.** – (June 7, 2021) After carefully monitoring conditions across the Forest, fire officials have determined that conditions are within specific parameters, including temperature, relative humidity, and fuel moisture to start prescribed fire operations in specifically planned units.

- Emigrant Creek Ranger District fire crews are tentatively planning to begin ignitions on 200 acres in Silvies 7, Tuesday, June 8. Silvies 7 is south of National Forest System (NFS) road 31.
- Prairie City Ranger District crews continue to monitor for smoke and hot spots on Elk 16 units C and Qa. Crews are beginning prep work on Unit FB, there is not set date for ignitions on this unit as of now.
- Blue Mountain Ranger District crews will continue to patrol Galena 30 and Murderers Creek 6 this week.

For the safety of firefighters and the public, roads and areas of prescribed fire activity will be signed. Please avoid these areas so as not to interfere with ongoing operations. For safety, roads, trails and areas may need to close temporarily as firefighter operations are taking place. Smoky conditions may also reduce visibility to a level that would require additional temporary closures. During prescribed fire operations, there is potential for impacts to camping and hunting. Hunters are advised to plan ahead, for their safety they should not camp in or near an area of prescribed fire activity.

Spring operations reduce surface fuels, increase height of some canopy, reduce small tree densities, and help promote fire resilient trees, thereby improving our ability to protect communities from wildfire. Additionally, these prescribed fires improve wildlife habitat, promote long-term ecosystem integrity and sustainability by reducing the risk of high-severity wildland fire.

All prescribed burn activity is weather and condition dependent.

With the potential for smoke to settle in certain areas during active operations, the public can monitor the smoke and air quality in our area and across the state by visiting, <http://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/>.

Additional information regarding prescribed burning on the Malheur National Forest is available on InciWeb at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7426/> or by viewing the Prescribed Fire Activity interactive map at [USFS R6 Tri-Forest Prescribed Fire Map](#).

For further information on the Malheur National Forest, please visit us at [www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur) or call the Supervisor's Office at 541-575-3000.



*Figure 1. Before image of Elk 16 Qa after thinning spring 2020*



*Figure 2. After image of Elk 16 Qa post spring 2021 prescribed fire treatment*