

News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior / Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District / 1405 Hollipark Drive / Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joanna Wilson, 208-524-7550

DATE: October 12, 2007

Prescribed Fires Planned October thru December Near Soda Springs and Lava Hot Springs

POCATELLO: BLM fire managers plan to use prescribed fire throughout October, November and December to reduce fire hazards and improve vegetation growing conditions. Burning will be conducted by BLM and Forest Service personnel on BLM lands and by local fire departments with agency assistance on private lands.

The three prescribed burns include: The Soda Hills Burn which will be located north/northwest of Soda Springs on BLM lands, burning 150 acres of piles, and private lands in conjunction with Caribou County Fire Department. The Aspen Burn located northwest of Soda Springs where the BLM will broadcast burn on 100 acres of over mature aspen to encourage new aspen development. This fire may affect road travel at times for one day during the burn on the Upper Valley Road. This burn is expected to occur in late October. The Lava Ranches Burn will occur southwest of Lava Hot Springs where 100 acres of piles will be burned.

The project objectives include pile burning in juniper woodlands and Douglas fir timber stands to lessen the buildup of fuels and break up the continuity of fuels to lessen the likelihood of a catastrophic fire occurring in and around the wildland urban interface. For the Aspen Burn, which will be a broadcast burn, objectives are to re-establish a healthy aspen stand.

Prescribed fire is used as a means to restore the natural and positive effects of fire in select areas and to reduce excessive trees, grass and brush which could feed large fires. The vegetation is ignited under calculated conditions which account for weather, smoke dispersion, fuel conditions and the desired outcome of the planned burn. If specified conditions are not met on the planned day of the burn, ignition is postponed. Burning will be done on rainy days during October and more regularly in November and December when temperatures have decreased and fuel moistures have increased.

(more)

Idaho Falls District – Pocatello Field Office

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For further prescribed burning information, please contact Joel Gosswiller at (208) 236-7560.

For other fire related information visit www.idahofireinfo.blm.gov, click on “fire information”.

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