



Forest Service News Release

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Prescribed burning planned near Magalia on Plumas National Forest Tomorrow

MAGALIA, Calif. — Firefighters on the Plumas National Forest Feather River Ranger District plan to start prescribed burning operations tomorrow, Thursday, April 10, in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) near Magalia, conditions permitting.

Approximately 20 acres of pile burning and underburning are planned in the Magalia Project area off Hollywood Road. Ignitions are expected to start around 9 a.m. and be completed in one day.

Firefighters from the Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest, Mendocino National Forest and Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression, Inc., will be working on the prescribed burning project.

Smoke is expected to be visible from Magalia, Paradise, Chico and the Sacramento Valley, but is not expected to have significant long-term impacts to nearby communities.

Short duration, minor smoke impacts are expected in Magalia and along neighboring forest roads. Visibility on roads in the project area may be reduced, especially early in the morning and late evening as smoke settles. There is potential for smoke settling in the evening in Paradise.

Firefighters will make efforts to reduce smoke impacts to nearby communities. This includes planning to stop ignitions earlier in the day and monitoring weather conditions. Smoke is expected to settle into the Butte Creek drainage, away from communities, but conditions may change.

Area residents and visitors sensitive to smoke may want to be prepared for potential smoke impacts and take measures to reduce exposure.

There will be increased firefighting equipment traffic in the area. It is recommended to use caution in the area from Skyway east to the edge of Magalia and from Perry Road north to Elmwood Road in Magalia during the prescribed burning operation. Drivers should watch for fire equipment exiting and entering roadways and possible slow traffic in the area for the next several days.

If weather conditions become unfavorable, including increased or gusty winds in the area, burning will stop until conditions improve. Firefighters will be monitoring conditions throughout the entire operation.

The area being treated is an unburned area of the Plumas National Forest adjacent to the 2018 Camp Fire burned area. The pile burning and underburning occurring is part of critical fuel reduction work to protect area communities and residents, reducing the risk of wildfire.

“We appreciate the patience and understanding from residents as we continue work on fuel reduction and prescribed burning near Magalia, Paradise and local communities,” said Feather River District Fire Management Officer James Lico. “The prescribed burning tomorrow is occurring next to homes and neighborhoods and our firefighters are working to safely and efficiently complete these operations while trying to reduce the impacts to local residents.”

There are additional units planned for prescribed burning treatment on National Forest System lands in the area. Firefighters are continuing to monitor conditions for opportunities for additional treatment in the area this spring.

“There is a tremendous amount of fuel reduction work happening with a variety of partners in and around Magalia and Paradise to help protect communities following the Camp Fire – whether it is in the remaining green areas or in the burn scar,” Lico said. “The cooperation by not only firefighters, fuels specialists, local governments and nonprofits wouldn’t be successful without the support of our community members and that is greatly appreciated.”

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