



Prescribed Burning in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

About Prescribed Fire

Prescribed burns help restore healthy and resilient forests by reducing the quantity of burnable fuels that would potentially feed wildfires. These burns also help recycle nutrients back into the soil, promote growth of fire adapted and native vegetation, better protect nearby communities, and help reduce the risk and intensity of future wildfires.

All prescribed burns are depended upon weather conditions; burning will not occur if conditions are not favorable. The right conditions for prescribed fire include correct temperature, wind, fuel moisture, and ventilation for smoke. When these criteria are met, firefighters implement, monitor, and patrol each burn to ensure it meets forest health and public safety objectives while following air quality standards. All Okanogan-Wenatchee N.F. prescribed burns are weather and prescription dependent and fire specialists will cease burning if objectives are not being met.

Prescribed burns do not occur when burn bans are in effect. If a prescribed burn has begun, and a burn ban is determined, burning operations will cease as soon as possible.

News Release

Spring prescribed burning planned across the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Prescribed fire planned on 9,951 acres across the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest this Spring

February 26, 2024 – Following a successful year of prescribed burning in 2023, when over 10,000 acres of fuels were underburned or pile burned across the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, spring prescribed burning operations will begin across the forest as soon as weather and fuel moisture conditions allow. Forest Service crews plan to use prescribed fire across approximately 9,951 acres on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest this spring.

“Prescribed fire and thinning activities could start as early as the first week in March,” said Acting Deputy Fire and Fuels Staff Officer Andrew Hall. “Due to the mild winter and recent warmer temperatures, we will be able to gain access to our spring prescribed fire units earlier this year.”

The forest has been increasing the use of prescribed fire over the past several years, thanks largely to investments made in the [Central Washington Initiative](#) through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. The Central Washington Initiative is part of the agency’s [Wildfire Crisis Strategy](#) to reduce the threat of wildfire to communities.

Information on Prescribed Fire Activity

For real-time prescribed fire maps and updates check the forest website, forest social media sites, or listen to the day/week of burn recorded voicemail message:

- Forest website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/okawen/home/?cid=fseprd1156228>
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/OkaWenNF
- Twitter: twitter.com/OkaWenNF
- Interactive map: tinyurl.com/harqnw8
- Phone: 509-996-4040

Smoke Readiness

People can expect to see and smell some smoke during burning operations. Although we manage prescribed fire to minimize smoke impacts, it is important that smoke-sensitive individuals plan ahead and be prepared. Also, use caution when traveling through areas where prescribed burning is occurring as visibility may be reduced due to smoke. For more information on smoke and public health, please visit wasmoke.blogspot.com or airnow.gov/fires.

Locations of Planned Burning

Managed burning operations, consisting of mainly underburning projects with some hand pile units, are planned on national forest lands in the following counties.

Okanogan County: (725 acres on the Methow Valley Ranger District)

- Lost Driveway 10 unit – 50 acres, located across Highway 20 from the community of Mazama. Smoke is expected to impact the Methow Valley, with local strong diurnal winds we anticipate smoke moving down valley affecting the communities of Winthrop and Twisp.
- Depending upon conditions, prescribed burning may occur in the following units in the Libby Creek and Buttermilk Creek drainages:
 - Libby Rx unit – 120 acres, located 3 miles west of Carlton, WA
 - Hornet Ridge unit – 163 acres, located 3 miles west of Carlton, WA
 - Nickle Canyon unit – 392 acres, located 3 miles west of Carlton, WA

Chelan County: (6,039 underburn acres on the Chelan, Entiat, and Wenatchee River Ranger Districts)

- 2,458 acres of underburning over multiple days in the Forest Johnson area in units FJ 125, FJ 224, FJ 1065, and FJ 589 in the Upper Mud Creek area, and in FJ 458 Unit in the Goman Peak area. Both burn areas are located 10 miles north of Entiat, WA. Smoke from these burns will be visible from Ardenvoir, Entiat, and Chelan, WA.
- 1,103 acres in the Gold Ridge 1103 Unit underburn in the Tillicum drainage between Mad River and Indian Creek approximately 2 miles northwest of Ardenvoir and 10 miles northwest of Entiat, WA. Smoke from this underburn will be visible from Ardenvoir and possibly the communities of Entiat and Chelan.
- Bear Mountain burn units – 781 acres, located 8 miles west of Chelan, WA
- Echo burn units – 421 acres, located 6 miles north of Chelan, WA
- Washington Creek burn units – 594 acres, located 9 miles north of Chelan, WA.
 - Smoke from the Bear Mountain, Echo, and Washington Creek prescribed burn areas will be visible from Lake Chelan and lakeshores, Union Valley, Manson, and Chelan, WA

- Beehive Units – 350 acres, located 6 miles southwest of Wenatchee, WA. Smoke will be visible from Wenatchee and possibly impact the Squilchuck Road and Mission Ridge area.
- Martin Ranch Unit 1 – 332 acres located 4 miles west of Wenatchee, WA. Smoke will be visible from Wenatchee; Number 2 Canyon and Stiss Canyon residents may experience some smoke impacts during these operations.

Kittitas County: (400 acres on the Cle Elum Ranger District)

- Liberty Unit – 100 acres, 17 miles northeast of Cle Elum, WA
- Orion Unit – 150 acres, located 15 miles northeast of Cle Elum, WA
- Swauk Pine Unit – 150 acres, located 18 miles northeast of Cle Elum, WA

Yakima County: (2,787 underburn acres on the Naches Ranger District). The following list shows the available units, not all units will be burned; weather, resource availability, and fuel conditions will determine which units will be burned.

- Canteen Unit 1 - 538 acres, 25 miles northwest of Yakima, WA and 1 mile north of Nile, WA, near Cleman Mountain and Hwy 410
- Canteen Unit 2 - 333 acres, 24 miles northwest of Yakima, WA and 1 mile northeast of Nile, WA, near Cleman Mountain and Hwy 410
- Canteen Unit 10 - 1,021 acres, 26 miles northwest of Yakima, WA and 1 mile northeast of Nile, WA, near Cleman Mountain and Hwy 410
- Canteen Unit 11 - 436 acres, 25 miles northwest of Yakima, WA and 1 mile northeast of Nile, WA, near Cleman Mountain and Hwy 410
- Canteen Unit 12 - 217 acres, 20 miles northwest of Yakima, WA and 2 miles east of Nile, WA, near Cleman Mountain and Hwy 410
- Canteen Unit 15 - 70 acres, 25 miles northwest of Yakima, WA and 1 mile northeast of Nile, WA, near Cleman Mountain and Hwy 410
- Canteen Unit 16 - 172 acres, 26 miles northwest of Yakima, WA and 1 mile north of Nile, WA, near Cleman Mountain and Hwy 410