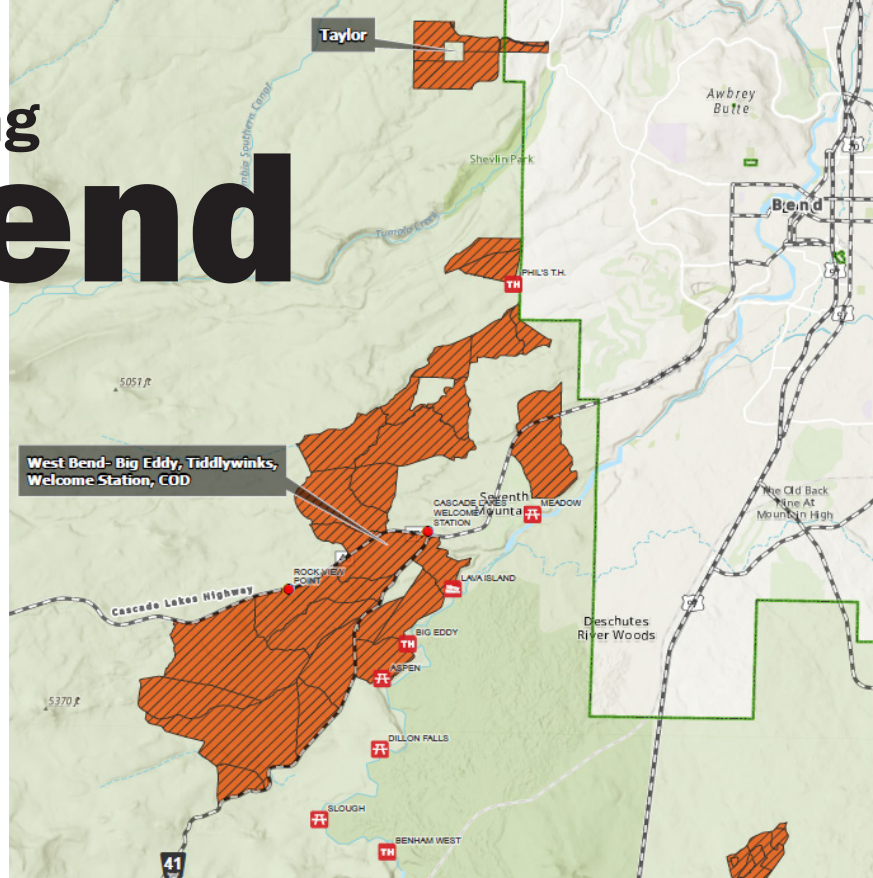


2024 Prescribed Burning West Bend

This spring, the Deschutes National Forest plans to conduct up to 3,000 acres of prescribed burning in the forest directly west of Bend.

Prescribed burning is a critical tool to reduce the risk for catastrophic wildfire impacting our community. Forest restoration has been ongoing in West Bend since 2014 with these areas receiving thinning, mowing, mastication, and pile burning in preparation for returning low-intensity fire to the landscape.

Fire plays an integral role in Central Oregon's ecosystem. Some of the things we love most about our landscape, like Ponderosa pines, require frequent low-intensity fire to sustain.



Prescribed burns, which are primarily conducted in the spring and fall, are carefully planned and implemented under specific conditions including, temperature, wind, humidity, and vegetation moisture. These prescribed conditions help to ensure that the fire burns with a low-intensity and reduces the likelihood that heavy smoke will blow into nearby communities.



Firefighters work with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Forestry Smoke Management, the Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Health Authority and Deschutes County Public Health to conduct prescribed burns when conditions will minimize smoke impacts to communities. However, some smoke is inevitable and part of living in a fire-dependent ecosystem.



Locations

Orange cross-hatched areas on the map above show units where firefighters may conduct prescribed burn operations.



Dates

Prescribed burns are planned around specific wind, weather, and moisture conditions. As such, ignition days can only be determined up to 72 to 24 hours in advance.

Stay Informed

- Text **COFIRE** to **888-777** to receive text alerts on day of ignitions.
- Visit **CentralOregonFire.org** for planned prescribed burn updates, smoke preparedness resources, and air quality index (AQI) levels.
- Follow **@CentralORFire** on X (formerly Twitter) for prescribed burn updates including day of ignitions updates.



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

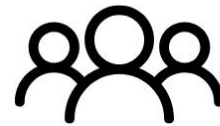
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What to know about **smoke** during **prescribed fire** season



Prescribed burning can bring smoky air to Central Oregon. The good news is, we know when these burns are happening so we can be prepared. This is the best time to prepare for wildfire season, when the smoke can show up without warning, and stick around for longer.



Why do we care about smoke?

Wildfire smoke affects everyone's health. It is important for all of us to limit our exposure to smoke! Some people may have worse symptoms, including people with health conditions or over age 65.

How to protect your health from smoke during prescribed burns:

- Close your windows! Smoke may be worse overnight
- Talk to your health care team and make a plan if you have health conditions
- Keep indoor air as clean as possible
- Locate cleaner air spaces by calling 211
- The Air Quality Index (AQI) tells us when it is safe to be outdoors. Find the AQI for your area at www.fire.airnow.gov
- Be willing to change your plans to avoid smoke
- Wear an N95 mask for extreme smoke or long periods of time outside

Have questions? Need more info? Learn more at <https://centraloregonfire.org/protect-your-health/> or scan here:



To request this information in an alternate format, please call (458) 292-8347 or email healthservices@deschutes.org.