



United States Department of Interior
3255 Fort Missoula Road

Bureau of Land Management

Missoula Field Office
Missoula, Montana 59804

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MISSOULA – The Missoula Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing for prescribed burns in the Dunnigan, Belmont Creek, Whiskey Gulch and Buck Creek drainages located within the Lower Blackfoot River Corridor about five miles north of Potomac. The burns will take three to six days to complete and will take place when weather and fuel conditions are favorable, but could occur anytime during the next month.

The prescribed burns will reduce the amount of fuel in the area by removing the dense Douglas-fir understory and stimulating shrub growth important for big game winter range. By removing the small, “ladder fuels,” the risk of large, catastrophic wildfires is also reduced. Fuels specialists are attempting to restore the historic ponderosa pine forest characterized by large diameter pine with intermittent openings.

The 782-acre treatment will use both ground crews using drip torches for small vegetation ignition and a helicopter for aerial ignition. If you have questions, or want more information about the prescribed burns, please contact Shelagh Fox or Margaret Heaphy at the Missoula Field Office, phone 329-3914.

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