

National Fire Plan Prescribed Burning Oregon 2003



BLM fuels and fire crews in Oregon's Klamath Basin are cooperating in a long-term research project on the Lava Beds National Monument in northeastern California. The 46,559 acre Lava Beds National Monument is located in northeastern California, approximately 155 miles northeast of Redding, California, and 58 miles southeast of Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Multiple burns have been carefully planned to assess fire's impact to healthy sagebrush ecosystems, sagebrush areas that have been invaded by cheat grass, and sagebrush areas that have been invaded by juniper trees. The burns will be carefully implemented and monitored to determine the impacts of prescribed burning in spring, summer and fall conditions. Results will help refine and improve prescribed burning prescriptions on sagebrush ecosystems on federal lands.



Prescribed burning at Lava Beds National Monument.



BLM firefighters ignite burn in Lava Beds National Monument.



Using water to control fire behavior.

Two seasons of research burning have been conducted by multi-agency fuels and fire crews during October 2001 and June 2003, at the Lava Beds National Monument. Interagency cooperation was one of the emphasis areas in the National Fire Plan of 2001, which facilitated the use of BLM and Forest Service crews on these prescribed burns, under the guidance of the National Park Service. The BLM Lakeview District's 20-person fuels management crew from Klamath Falls became a primary source of experienced prescribed burn specialists, allowing for a more efficient use of federal funding and manpower.

Prescribed fire is one of the most effective tools for restoring healthy ecosystems in the west, but burning must be limited to parameters that will meet desired resource outcomes, while avoiding the environmental damage that can be caused through unplanned wildfires. Weather and fuels conditions can severely limit the ideal burning windows, restricting opportunities to implement

projects and affecting available personnel. Multi-agency cooperation and collaboration to gain a better understanding of environmental effects will be a key to future success of federal fuels and fire management.

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Prescribed burning around buildings requires extra vigilance.