

PRESS RELEASE



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Controlled Burn in Weed Improves Fire Resiliency and Forest Health

The Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association (SPBA) is collaborating with a local landowner to implement a prescribed burn on a fifteen-acre pine forest, located in southeast Weed, CA. Ignitions are tentatively planned for the afternoon of Tuesday April 20, 2021, provided conditions on the ground line up to meet the objectives of the burn safely. The controlled burn will reduce wildfire risks to Weed and enhance habitat by utilizing low-intensity fire to remove hazardous fuels.

The landowner, Bruce Shoemaker noted, “this underburn is the culmination of several years of restoration work we have been conducting to make our forests more wildfire-resilient, diverse and healthy.”

Shoemaker added “The Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association is an important new asset in our area for rural and forest landowners, one sorely needed given the increasing wildfire risk we face every year.”

Smoke will likely be visible throughout the Weed area and Interstate-5 corridor in the vicinity. The burn team will closely monitor weather and wind conditions in coordination with the National Weather Service and Siskiyou County Air Pollution Control District to minimize smoke impacts to residents.

Numerous fire agencies are expected to be on site including the Karuk Tribe, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, and the Weed Fire Department as well as representatives and volunteers from the SPBA. The landowner has acquired all necessary permits from both the Weed Fire Department and Siskiyou County Air Pollution Control District to conduct this burn.

Lyndsey Lascheck, Forestry and Fuels Project Manager for the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, helped Shoemaker plan this burn for the SPBA and is encouraged to see more support for prescribed fire. This is another example of the SVRCD’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity demonstration project, which seeks to model the benefits of community based prescribed burn associations for the region.

“It’s showcasing that the Siskiyou PBA can build more local prescribed fire capacity by working collaboratively with fire agencies as well as interested community members to get these burns done.”

She added: “so much evidence points to prescribed fire as a primary solution to reduce wildfire impacts and improve ecosystem health. This burn is an important step in the right direction.”

The SPBA has facilitated two other burns this Spring in Yreka and Scott Valley and this will be the third. This will be the first burn led by a private landowner in Weed.

The Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association (SPBA) includes landowners, community members, tribes, local organizations and agencies that work together to safely conduct burns. The goals of SPBA burns are to restore historic roles of fire, use fire as a management tool, and reduce wildfire risk to our communities and watersheds throughout the diverse, fire-adapted landscapes of Siskiyou County.

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