



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA IS CONDUCTING PRESCRIBED BURNS

*To improve landscape health and to help reduce large wildfire potential.*

Columbia River Gorge, Wash. — October 2020

To reduce wildfire hazards and enhance fire breaks, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area plans to conduct prescribed burning at several locations in the central Gorge this fall.

Prescribed burns reduce excess fuel from building up and minimize the potential for large scale wildfires while improving the overall health and resiliency of ecosystems. Burns are planned in the Courtney Road and Tracy Hill area, both areas are between Lyle and Bingen Washington, in Klickitat County.

“Exact dates will depend on a weather and moisture conditions that best allow the appropriate level of burn intensity, and smoke management while ensuring we have a well-controlled burn,” said Roland Rose, a Fire Fuels Planner with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. “The large scale wildfires our region has experienced this season validate the need for fuel treatment projects such as this.”

Smoke may be visible on Washington State Route 14 and/or I-84 at times during the burns. When smoke is present, motorists should reduce speeds and turn on headlights.

In order to minimize impacts from smoke, management officials from Oregon and Washington determine burn dates based on weather conditions. Once dates are confirmed, details will be posted on [Facebook.com/crgnsa](https://www.facebook.com/crgnsa) or [Twitter.com/crgnsa](https://twitter.com/crgnsa). Those with asthma can request to be on an advance call list by contacting the National Scenic Area office at 541-308-1700.

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*The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area encompasses 292,500 acres of Washington and Oregon, where a spectacular canyon cuts through the Cascade Mountains. USDA Forest Service manages National Forest System lands, trails, and recreation sites in the National Scenic Area and works with the Gorge Commission, states, counties, treaty tribes, and partners to protect and enhance scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Columbia River Gorge while encouraging local economic development. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.*

