

Summary of rule changes in Smoke Management Plan for Prescribed Fires

- I am here to provide an update on the Oregon's Smoke Management Plan (SMP) review process. And what lies ahead.
- The SMP was incorporated into administrative rule as a regulatory program 1972.
- The program has gone through six major reviews since 1972.
- These Smoke Management rules apply to prescribed burning of forest fuels for forest management purposes within a forest protection district in Oregon.

Primary focus in current SMP review was to:

1. provide additional opportunity for the use of prescribed burning under the OSMP, and
2. facilitate burning in a way that does not harm the public.

key changes include

Polyethylene covers over piles

- 1. Current** The size of polyethylene cover must not exceed 100 square feet and a thickness of 4 mil.
- 2. Proposed** Polyethylene covers may be used as necessary to reduce emissions with no specific restrictions on size or thickness.

Smoke intrusion means

- 1. Current** The verified entrance of smoke from prescribed burning into a Smoke Sensitive Receptor Area at ground level. Categorizes intrusion density as light, medium, and heavy from nephelometer values.
- 2. Proposed** New threshold levels for an intrusion. The verified entrance of smoke from prescribed burning into a SSRA at ground level that exceeds $70\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$ for any one hour period and/or averages at or above $26\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$ for a 24 hour period, measured from midnight to midnight beginning on the first day of smoke entrance.

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Smoke incident means

- 1. Current** the verified entrance of prescribed burning into a community, other than a SSRA, investigated by the forester
- 2. Proposed** The verified entrance of prescribed burning smoke into an SSRA at levels below a smoke intrusion. Still tracked.

Communication Plan

- 1. Current** none
- 2. Proposed** ODF annually develops and distributes a best practices communication framework.
ODF/DEQ develop a community response plan for communities who experience repeated smoke intrusions.
Plan coordinates through the county health department
The plan includes education about prescribed burning, and alert procedures.

Next steps on SMP rule updates

- Jun 6: BOF presentation of rule updates for permission to proceed with public hearings (LaGrande)
BOF member asked to add exemption for 1 hour intrusion threshold if SSRA develops a community response plan to mitigate smoke exposure and gain approval from local govt, DEQ and ODF.
- August: Public hearings (locations TBD)
- November: BOF rule approval (Salem)
- January 2019: EQC approval of State Implementation Plan (ODF rules and directive – location TBD)
- Spring 2019: EPA State Implementation Plan approval.
- Spring 2019: Rule enrolled with Secretary of State (rule implementation)