

Thursday, April 29th 2010

Earliest ever finish to burning program

VicForests has completed the earliest ever finish to its regeneration burning program.

Tim Sanders, VicForests Senior Forester – Silviculture in the Central Highlands region, said the burning program had finished ahead of schedule.

“VicForests’ staff completed its last major regeneration burn for 2010 in an area east of Marysville late last week,” Mr Sanders said.

“VicForests would like to thank the community for their patience and understanding during this process.

“These burns play a crucial role in ensuring the sustainability of our forests by creating an environment which encourages the regrowth of seedlings native to the area.

“This year’s burning program has been an enormous success and the early finish allows us to begin sowing seeds in these areas sooner than we had expected.

“VicForests’ and DSE staff have worked extremely hard to take advantage of the favourable weather conditions Victoria has experienced in the last few months. To finalise our regeneration burning program before the end of April is extremely pleasing.

“Some very small burns may be required in some areas but all major burns have been successfully completed,” he said.

The comprehensive burning program was undertaken by VicForests in conjunction with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

“Regeneration burns are conducted each year to assist the germination of seedlings following the harvesting process,” Mr Sanders said.

“The burns began earlier in some areas this year than in other years because much of the fuel load was destroyed by the bushfires in 2009.

“Aerial sowing operations have already commenced to distribute seed from the local region across these areas to ensure the forest is regrown for use by future generations,” he said.

DSE may still complete some fuel reduction burns in certain areas of Victoria to help manage bushfire risk and VicForests staff will assist where possible.

Any residents wanting more information about the location of these burns can contact the Victorian Bushfire Information line on 1800 240 667 or go to www.dse.vic.gov.au and click on the Bushfire Information link.

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