



Forest Service

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

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News Release



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Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests prescribed burning updates

Springerville, AZ –December 8, 2015; —The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Lakeside Ranger District and Springerville Ranger District is accomplishing three prescribed burns during the week of December 7 through December 10.

On the Lakeside Ranger District fire managers are doing prescribed burning on the McCleave Unit which is about one mile south of Pinedale Estates. A portion of this burn will be on the Rodeo-Chediski burn scar and will accomplish the goal of maintaining and protecting ponderosa pine stands while providing browse for wildlife. Fire removes low-growing underbrush, cleans the forest floor of debris, opens it up to sunlight, and nourishes the soil. Reducing this competition for nutrients allows established trees to grow stronger and healthier. Established trees have to compete with undergrowth for nutrients and space. To date 680 acres have been treated, and fire crews will continue treatment through Thursday, December 10.

Lakeside RD is also burning on the Country Club Unit which is east of the community of Pinetop. Part of the purpose of this treatment will be to protect the wildland urban interface for the safety of the community and also to keep a portion of a possible evacuation route clear and safe. Prescribed burning of forest ground fuels also reduces the threat of large scale wildfire impacts to private lands. To date 596 acres have been treated, and fire crews will continue treatment through Thursday, December 10.

The Springerville Ranger District treated 414 acres in the Buckelew area, which continues treatment towards the goal of Forest Health and protecting local communities from the effects of future high severity wildfires.



Prescribed burning provides many benefits and is essential to maintaining healthy forest ecosystems. It provides habitat diversity, recycles plant nutrients into the soil and encourages new growth for a variety of plants used by wildlife and livestock.

These prescribed fires were in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Habitat Partnership Committee, as well as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Mule Deer Foundation. In addition, all five ranger districts of the ASNFs, the Kaibab National Forest and the Gila National Forest, Timber Mesa Fire Department, Pinetop Fire Department and the Clay Springs Fire Department worked on these projects.

For more information please call the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests at 928.333.6280; check out the ASNFs website at: www.fs.usda.gov/asnf or join the conversation on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/apachesitgreavesnfs/>