

Pitcha Prescribed Fire

Date Issued: May 11, 2018

Anticipated Scheduling of Prescribed Fires: The US Forest Service plans to implement several prescribed fire projects on the Superior National Forest this spring. The actual date of ignition is dependent on many factors including: fuel moisture, relative humidity, temperature, and wind. The spring burning season has started.

Pitcha Prescribed Burn Units 1, 2, 3, and 4: are south of Ely, east of Babbitt, along the Denley Road (old FR 424). Township 60 N, Range 11-12 W. Units 1, 2, and 3 were burned in 2016. Crews anticipate re-burning these units this spring if the right conditions develop. This will be the first entry for Unit 4.

Description: The purpose of the Pitcha Burn is fuel reduction and ecosystem management. The units have an over story of red and white pine with a mix of white spruce, jack pine, aspen and paper birch in the understory and midstory. Balsam fir and brush species were cut from the understory, crushed, and burned. One unit of the initial fire burned in a patchy manner.

A second fire will clear more surface fuels to mineral soil enabling the tap roots of young pine to flourish. The mature pines will continue to seed, producing their predecessors. Historically, surface fires cleared underbrush leaving thicker-barked pine forests. These burns will create fire resistant forest stands that can reduce the intensity of future landscape wildfires.



Y valves with nozzles on a hoselay allow fire managers to control lines on prescribed burns.

Precise ignition methods will be utilized to start the fires. Natural barriers and constructed containment lines will be used to control and hold the fires. Hose-lays supplied by water pumps or other water delivery equipment will supplement the holding actions where needed. Fire crews will monitor the prescribed fire until it is declared out.

Resources: Holding crews and ignition crews of firefighters and/or engines will be working directly on the prescribed fire while it is active. Fire crews may conduct preparations in the area prior to completion of the prescribed fires and continue to monitor after they are completed. Additional resources including a hotshot crew, job corps, and other crews from out of the area will supplement Superior National Forest staff.

For more information:

Fire Information: 218-208-3969

Superior National Forest website:

www.fs.usda.gov/superior

InciWeb: [2018 Superior NF WZ Prescribed Fires](#)

