

San Jacinto Mountain Fire Departments Joint Information



# NEWS RELEASE



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## BALDY EXTENSION PRESCRIBED BURN

Weather and fuel moisture permitting, the US Forest Service, San Jacinto Ranger District along with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection plans to prescribe burn approximately 95 acres west of Mountain Center, on north side of Hwy 74 near McCall Park. The project will take place between November 30th – December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004. If the smoke impacts Hwy 74, there may be some traffic delays on that roadway.

Prescribed burning involves the use of hand-held devices and/or helicopters to set prescribed fires on predetermined patches of vegetation. Usually, about 50% of the vegetation in a project area is actually “blackened” or burned, while the other half remains unburned. This creates a patchwork of burned areas scattered among unburned areas.

The primary benefit of prescribed burning is community protection. The threat of wildfire damage to communities is reduced when adjacent chaparral areas have already been prescribed burned.

Prescribed burning is a valuable tool for managing wildlife habitat. It mimics wildfire, but is not as destructive, allowing the plants in burned areas to rejuvenate and flourish. In the early stages after a fire, there is a higher diversity of plant foods than is found in older growth brush, this attracts many different animals and insects, which prefer the younger vegetation.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please call the US Forest Service at (909) 382-2921 or California Department of Forestry (951) 940-6985.

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