

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

Santa Fe National Forest

For Immediate Release

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Prescribed Burns Planned For November 20 – 23

(SANTA FE, NM)— Prescribed Burns are planned in the Santa Fe Watershed and near Las Vegas in the El Porvenir and the Road 18 area. Burns will be carried out next week Monday through Wednesday, weather permitting.

Santa Fe Municipal Watershed Pile Burning, Española Ranger District

- Beginning **November 20th through the 23rd**, and throughout Fall and Winter as weather and resources are available, fire managers will continue to treat hazardous fuels within the Santa Fe Municipal Watershed;
- Burning operations will take place on the north side of Santa Fe Watershed, south of NM 475, North of Nichols reservoir, and east of Hyde Park Estates;
- To lessen the risk of an escaped fire, Espanola District Fire personnel have divided the 3,000 treated areas into smaller 50 to 100-acre units with reinforcement fire lines around each unit. These extra measures or mitigations allow fire personnel to remove the material on the ground that could help fuel a wildfire later on in the season;
- During ‘burning days’, Fire Managers will consider many factors including: fuel moisture levels, weather forecasts, drought conditions, resources availability, and air quality to determine whether or not to ignite. These factors are important during dry times, where ongoing fire weather patterns exist;
- Smoke from the Santa Fe Watershed Burn will be visible from the city of Santa Fe, east of Santa Fe, Tesuque and surrounding areas. Smoke will settle into lower elevations and in drainage areas during the evenings, but should lift by mid-morning.

El Porvenir and Road 18 Burns, Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District

- **November 20th through the 23rd**, fire managers plan to burn 100 acres in the **El Porvenir Prescribed Burn Project**, located 15 miles northwest of Las Vegas near the El Porvenir Campground;
- During the day, the smoke should drift north to northeast. At night wind shifts will direct smoke in a south to southeasterly direction. Smoke might settle into the communities of Gallinas, El Porvenir, San Pablo, Mineral Hill, and San Geronimo. Smoke may also impact Hwy 65 which is the main access to Gallinas and El Porvenir communities and will be visible from Rociada, Las Vegas, Gallinas, El Porvenir and surrounding communities.
- The second prescribed burn will be a 40-acre burn in the **Road 18** area, which is approximately 16 miles northwest of Las Vegas;
- Smoke from this burn is most likely to drift toward the north in the direction of El Porvenir and will be visible to the communities of Mineral Hill, Camp Blue Haven, San Geronimo, Gallinas.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Fall and Winter provides good prescribed burning weather--warm days and cold nights. Santa Fe National Forest is planning to burn as weather permits during Fall and Winter months in the many treated (thinned) areas in the National Forest. Removal of treated material through burning will reduce the intensity of future fires by cleaning up understory debris including tree seedlings and concentrations of dead material. Besides reducing the hazardous fuels, prescribed burning can help recycle nutrients and rejuvenate young plants.