

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Santa Fe National Forest



For Immediate Release

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Forest plans “Chapparal” prescribed burn, Cuba District

(SANTA FE, NM)— A prescribed burn is planned on the Santa Fe National Forest Cuba Ranger District, as conditions allow, between October 11 and November 10.

The name of the project is the Chapparal prescribed burn. The treatment is expected to take place one to two miles south of the Rancho de Chaparral Girl Scout Camp in Cuba, New Mexico, encompassing 1,000 acres by way of thinning, mastication, and hand ignitions. The purpose of the prescribed burn will be to reduce the risk of future high intensity fire and restore forest health.

Smoke levels will likely vary from day-to-day and possibly be visible to residents of Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Bernalillo, Cuba, La Cueva, Jemez Springs, Jemez Pueblo, Gilman and San Ysidro, as well as from Highway 4, Highway 126, and Highway 550. The project is not planned to be continuous over the four week treatment period due to varying conditions on the ground and changes in weather over time.

Smoke from prescribed fire can be a nuisance to some people and a health concern for others, such as children, pregnant women, senior citizens, and those suffering from allergies, asthma, chemical sensitivities, or other heart or lung diseases. To reduce exposure to smoke, stay indoors as much as possible with windows, doors and vents closed. Avoid or limit physical activities outdoors.

In the evenings, smoke settles into low lying areas, including drainages; however, lifts by mid-morning when the sun rises. Residents living in such low-lying areas may be most affected. Information on health impacts from smoke can be found by calling the New Mexico Department of Health at 1-888-878-8992, or visit: http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/documents/Health_Effects_Smoke_06152010.pdf

For more information on the planned prescribed burn, William Maestas at (575)289-3264. Also, follow us on Twitter: SantaFeNF@SantafeNF

