

National Forests in North Carolina
USDA Forest Service
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FOREST SERVICE ALERT

Dec. 20, 2012

Uwharrie National Forest to Conduct Prescribed Burns in January

TROY, N.C. — The Uwharrie Ranger District will conduct prescribed burns beginning in January to help reduce woody debris and prevent larger, high-severity wildfires, which could threaten private homes and property.

The Forest Service plans to complete the prescribed burns by mid-April. The prescribed burns may or may not be implemented as follows because each burn must be conducted under a particular set of weather conditions.

The first area is the Eldorado community along Forest Service Roads 576, 555 and 553, adjacent to the Uwharrie River. This burn is a total of 900 acres. Residents of the Eldorado, Uwharrie and Green Gap communities may see smoke. Smoke conditions should be brief and occur mainly at night. Residents of Lake Tillery and Badin in Montgomery and Stanly Counties may see smoke from this prescribed burn.

The second prescribed burn may occur near Lewis Mill Pond on McCallum Rd., off of State Rd. 1005. Total acreage of this burn is 1205 acres; however, it may be burned in smaller units over multiple days. Residents of McCallum Rd. may see nighttime smoke and some traffic delays on the day of the prescribed burn. Residents of Candor, Troy and Biscoe may also see smoke.

The third burn unit is approximately 660 acres, located along Tower Rd. off of Hwy. 109 north of Troy. This burn may occur near the East Morris Mtn. Hunt Camp, which will be closed for the duration of the project. Residents of Ophir, Abner, Love Joy, Troy and the Eldorado community may see smoke.

The fourth burn unit is located north of Hwy 24/27 between Landfill Rd. and the railroad tracks running north of Hwy 24/27. This unit is approximately 620 acres and will be visible from the town of Troy. Residents along Old Dairy, Liberty Hill Church and Mt. Carmel roads may see smoke with heavier concentrations on Landfill Rd. primarily at night. Traffic delays may occur along Landfill Rd. during daylight hours on the day of the project. Drivers should heed signs and signals along the roadway. Uwharrie Environmental will be contacted specifically to pass the message to trucks traveling along these routes during the day of the project.

The safety of the firefighters and public is the number one priority. The public is asked to heed signs posted at trailheads and roads and to stay away from burn areas and closed roads and trails.

All prescribed burns are completed by trained personnel in accordance with an approved, detailed plan, which includes desired weather conditions. Prescribed burns are conducted under tight parameters, and modeling is often conducted to reduce the effects of smoke. Contingency measures are also included in every plan.

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