

# NEWS

For Immediate Release

United States  
Department  
of Agriculture

Forest Service

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## Sandia Ranger District Implementing Talking Talons Prescribed Burn

**TIJERAS, NM, January 7, 2013**– Sandia Ranger District will be implementing a prescribed burn weather permitting, Tuesday January 8, 2013, one mile south from I-40 and the Zuzax exit. The Talking Talons Prescribe Burn is a continuation of a fuels reduction program here on the Sandia Ranger District. We will be treating up to 40 acres depending on the conditions of the fuels, winds and humidity. Smoke will be very visible from I-40 and the surrounding communities of Cedar Crest and Tijeras.

Frequent low intensity fires are natural and necessary components of a healthy forest. This ecosystem depends on fire to promote new vegetation, enhance habitat and reduce the threat of large fire. It improves public and firefighter safety by reducing the accumulated fuels that could otherwise contribute to more intense fire behavior under hotter/drier conditions. The broadcast prescribed burning process applies low intensity fire across the forest floor to consume small debris and ground litter.

All prescribed fire activity is dependent on personnel availability, weather (including winds, ventilation, and approval from the City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department. The project, and approval for the project, is also based upon specific assessments, agency guidelines and safety protocols. During this burn, managers will continuously monitor weather conditions, including wind, temperature, and relative humidity. Fuel conditions including fuel moisture and the quantity of fuels are also measured. Smoke will be visible and expected to have variable affects to neighboring communities.

Fire managers make every effort to minimize smoke impacts to the communities while continuing to address the critical need to reduce the risk of severe wildfires around those communities. Tactics to keep smoke impacts as minimal as possible include canceling approved burns when conditions aren't favorable, finding alternative uses for the debris in slash piles, timing daytime ignitions to allow the majority of smoke time to disperse prior to settling overnight, and burning larger sections at a time when conditions are favorable to reduce the overall number of days smoke is in the area.

In addition, the Sandia Ranger District coordinates prescribed fire plans with our partners in the county, city and state, as well as neighboring districts, to reduce the impact of smoke on the communities.

The public can obtain additional prescribed fire information via the following:

- Cibola National Forest: [www.fs.usda.gov/cibola](http://www.fs.usda.gov/cibola)
- Smoke Management go to <http://nmfireinfo.com/smoke-management/> or [http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/SMP/smp\\_index.html](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/SMP/smp_index.html)
- Sign-up for regular email notifications and updates of planned burns and wildfires: [ktakai@fs.fed.us](mailto:ktakai@fs.fed.us)