



News Release

USDA Forest Service
Cibola National Forest and Grasslands
Sandia Ranger District
11776 Highway 337 ■ Tijeras NM 87059



For Immediate Release

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Sandia Ranger District Continuing with Prescribed Burns

Tijeras, NM – February 5, 2013. The Sandia Ranger District will be continuing their prescribed burning program this Wednesday February 6, 2013, weather permitting. There are two areas where burns are planned:

- The Casa Loma area, 1 ½ miles north of I-40 and ¼ mile west of North 14 on the forest. Total project area is 15 acres and should be completed that day. Smoke will be visible and expected to have variable effects to neighboring communities. Expect some low open flame from stumps and slash. When done we will continue to mop up and patrol the area.
- On Thursday February 7, 2013, the Talking Talons Project Unit B burn will continue, depending on weather and the availability of resources. This burn is 40 acres and is located between the two Talking Talons A and C Units that we have completed in the past few weeks. It is located one mile south of 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. Smoke will be very visible from I-40 and the surrounding communities of Cedar Crest and Tijeras.

Staff will 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 our communities. We realize and have experienced multiple times the discomfort of smoke during these burns. The tradeoff right now is that the smoke impact is much lower in controlled situation than when we are in wildfire season. We need to get rid of the fuels for the safety of the communities, for forest health and for the wildlife.

Fire managers use tactics to keep smoke impacts as minimal as possible including 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. However, if you have high sensitivity to smoke, we recommend that you leave the area.

For additional information, please call the Sandia Ranger District at 505.281.3304.