



# News Release

USDA Forest Service  
Cibola National Forest and Grasslands  
Kiowa / Rita Blanca Ranger District  
714 Main Street ■ Clayton, NM 88415



## For Immediate Release

Contacts:

Jim Edge, Fire Management Officer at [jledge@fs.fed.us](mailto:jledge@fs.fed.us) or (575) 374-9652

Matt Lamb, Assistant Fire Management Officer at [mattlamb@fs.fed.us](mailto:mattlamb@fs.fed.us) or (580) 497-2143

## Kiowa/Rita Blanca District Plans Prescribed Burns

**Clayton, NM – February 28, 2013.** The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands' Kiowa/Rita Blanca Ranger District is planning two prescribed burns near Clayton, New Mexico. These prescribed burns are being implemented in cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Habitat Stamp Program (Sikes Act Funding). The burns will take place in early March - prior to plover migration and are designed to improve the quality of mountain plover nesting and foraging habitat. The projects are:

- **K-21N Mountain Plover Nesting Habitat Improvement Prescribed Burn** will treat approximately 300 acres of short grass prairie in Section 22, T. 24 N., R. 35 E, approximately 8 miles south of Clayton on Hwy. 402 Union County, NM.
- **K-43 Mountain Plover Nesting Habitat Improvement Prescribed Burn** will treat approximately 1,200 acres of short grass prairie in Section 1, T.26 N., R. 36 E, and Section 6, T.26 N., R. 37 E Approximately 9 miles east of Clayton on Hwy 56/64 (Boise Highway) to Boise City. Union County, NM.

The goal of this project is to improve wildlife biodiversity by promoting and helping to protect private property in the event of a wildfire. This ecosystem depends on fire to promote new vegetation, enhance habitat and reduce the threat of large fires. 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 Kiowa/Rita Blanca and Black Kettle Ranger District fire staffs have been closely monitoring fuel moisture conditions and weather patterns. If conditions remain favorable, the prescribed burn will occur in early March but no later than March 31, 2013. Fire management crews will monitor the burn for as long as necessary.

During the prescribed burn, temporary road signs warning about smoke and prescribed fire activity in the area will be posted on Boise City Highway 56/64 (K43) and highway 402 (K21). Some light smoke may be observed in the area. Additional fire vehicles will be in the area patrolling and monitoring the roads. Please drive carefully when on these roads, as visibility might be lowered due to smoke.

If you have questions regarding the planned prescribed burn or any other Kiowa/Rita Blanca Ranger District questions, please call 575.374.9652 or e-mail Jim Edge at [jledge@fs.fed.us](mailto:jledge@fs.fed.us) or Matt Lamb at [mattlamb@fs.fed.us](mailto:mattlamb@fs.fed.us).

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