



Forest Service

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News Release

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SFNF Plans Prescribed Burn on Jemez Ranger District

SANTA FE, NM – May 1, 2019 – Fire managers on the Jemez Ranger District of the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) plan to implement a prescribed burn in the Tent Rocks area between May 11 and June 1, 2019, if conditions remain favorable. The treatment area is approximately 3.5 miles north of Jemez Springs, NM, and less than 1 mile southwest of La Cueva, NM.

Up to 1,520 acres will be treated to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire, improve wildlife habitat and improve forest health. The decision to proceed with the prescribed burn will be based on fuel moisture levels, air quality, winds and forecasted weather.

Forest Roads 604 and 607 will remain open, but visitors are discouraged from traveling the roads during prescribed burn activities. Camping in the vicinity is also not recommended due to the high potential for smoke.

Smoke will likely be visible from US Highway 550, NM Highway 4, San Ysidro, Jemez Pueblo, Jemez Springs and La Cueva. Smoke may settle into lower elevations and in drainage areas during the evenings but should lift by mid-morning.

Prescribed burns are one of the most effective tools available to resource managers for restoring fire-adapted ecosystems. The prescribed burns mimic natural fires by reducing forest fuels, recycling nutrients and increasing habitat diversity. Prescribed burns are managed with firefighter and public safety as the first priority.

Smoke-sensitive individuals and people with respiratory problems or heart disease are encouraged to take precautionary measures. Information on air quality and protecting your health by using the 5-3-1 visibility method can be found online at the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) website at <https://nmtracking.org/fire>. People with health concerns can also call NMDOH at 505-827-0006 for additional information. For information on the HEPA filter loan program, go to <https://www.santafefireshed.org/hepa-filter-loan-program/>.

Fire updates are posted on the New Mexico Fire Information website at www.nmfireinfo.com, www.facebook.com/SantaFeNF and Twitter [@SantafeNF](https://twitter.com/SantafeNF). For more information, contact the Española Ranger Station at 505-753-7331. For additional information about the prescribed burn, please contact the Jemez Ranger District at 575-829-3535.

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