



PRESCRIBED FIRE NOTIFICATION

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LAS CRUCES FIELD OFFICE ■ 1800 MARQUESS ■ LAS CRUCES NM 88005

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For Immediate Release

June 13, 2005

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BLM Conducts Prescribed Fire

Smoke will be visible to residents of Animas and Lordsburg

Smoke will be highly visible the week of June 13 as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conducts a controlled prescribed fire near Cloverdale, New Mexico.

The 9000-acre area scheduled for burning is 40 miles south of Animas New Mexico. Lordsburg, Animas and the surrounding residents will see smoke during the project.

The burn, scheduled to begin Tuesday June 14, will reintroduce fire into the ecosystem that has a natural fire return interval of 10-30 years. A return interval is the amount of time in nature between natural ignition and burns without human interference. The burn will also reduce shrub density, allowing grasses to thrive with less competition from the invasive shrubs and cactus.

Prescribed burns reduce the amount of fuel available for an unplanned fire, while burning at a low intensity that is beneficial for the ecosystem. Now is a good time to burn due to low relative humidities and light winds making resource objectives attainable.

A crew of eight people, two engines, and one helicopter will be conducting the burn. The BLM will notify local State and federal fire agencies and the Sheriffs Office on all days that burning is conducted. In addition, smoke may be visible from a similar prescribed burn being conducted in the Big Hatchett Mountains. Please feel free to contact the BLM or local fire departments with any questions or concerns about smoke in the area.

As a reminder, one year with high moisture will not alleviate a seven year drought. The winter and spring rains have increased the amount of on-the-ground fuels, and as weather gets hotter and drier the risk of unplanned fires will increase. Please be sure to make sure campfires are dead out before you leave them, and extinguish cigarettes in ashtrays.

