

NEWS

For Immediate Release

United States
Department
of Agriculture

Forest Service

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MAGDALENA RANGER DISTRICT PLAN PHASE 1 OF RANCH SUPPLY PRESCRIBED BURN

MAGDALENA, NM – February 6, 2006 - The Cibola National Forest, Magdalena Ranger District is planning a prescribed burn totaling 891 acres in the northwestern part of the San Mateo Mountains. The District plans to initiate the burn Wednesday, February 8, 2006, if burning conditions are favorable. Prescription parameters include having the appropriate weather forecast and the required personnel and equipment on hand, including identified contingency resources. Fire management crews will patrol for as long as necessary after ignition to ensure public safety.

Phase 1 of Ranch Supply Prescribed Burn area is located on the Magdalena Ranger District approximately 28 miles southwest of Magdalena, New Mexico and about 33 miles northwest of Truth or Consequences. The Phase 1 Ranch Supply Prescribed Burn covers approximately 891 acres. This burn is being conducted prior to implementation of the main burn to pre-treat an MSO (Mexican Spotted Owl) protected activity center. The dominant fuels in the area are Ponderosa pine, mixed conifer and pinion/juniper with light to moderate grass cover. This burn will help reduce hazardous fuels and improve wildlife habitat for elk and Merriam's turkey.

During this prescribed burn you could experience closures or delays when traveling the following roads: at the intersection of Forest Road (FR) 220 and FR 476 and at the intersection of Forest Road (FR) 473 and FR 220 in Durfee Canyon. Additional fire vehicles will be in the area patrolling and monitoring the road closures. Please drive carefully when on these roads. Visibility might be lower due to smoke. Use caution.

For more information contact the Magdalena Ranger District at 505-854-2281.

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