

NEWS RELEASE



USDA FOREST SERVICE
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
P.O. Box 640
Springerville, AZ 85938
928-333-4301
TTY 928-333-6292

For Immediate Release
October 6, 2005

Contact: Bob Dyson
928-333-6263

PRESCRIBED FIRE SEASON HERE

Springerville, AZ.... Its fall in the White Mountains and that means the weather may allow good burning conditions for prescribed fires on the National Forests. Fire managers are implementing burn plans which prescribe when to ignite piles of woody debris or when to ignite broadcast burning on hundreds of acres at a time.

All of the Ranger Districts across the Apache-Sitgreaves have started prescribed burning in various locations so smoke may be a common sight in communities. Before any ignitions occur, however, fire managers have to consider fuel conditions and smoke dispersal and what actions they need to take to minimize smoke in adjacent communities. Each Ranger District offers the opportunity to have people with health issues be notified by phone to alert them of possible smoke in the air; simply call the local district office and ask to be placed on the call list.

Smoke can be considered a nuisance now but in contrast to a catastrophic wildfire, the inconvenience is tolerable. Forested areas that are prescribed burned on a regular basis tend to be much healthier and much less susceptible to a damaging wildfire.

Prescribed fire plans on the National Forests are available to the public by dialing "593," the public information line, and following the prompt for fire information. That information is changed several times each week as prescribed burns are started. Fire information is also available on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests web site at: www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf.

END