

**News Release**  
**USDA Forest Service**  
**Coronado National Forest**  
**300 West Congress**  
**Tucson, AZ 85701**  
[www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado)



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**Effective Immediately**

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**CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST TO CONTINUE  
WITH FUELS TREATMENTS  
Smoke May Rise From Santa Catalina Mountains**

TUCSON, AZ (November 30, 2007) – The Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest will continue with ongoing fuels treatment program by burning piles of mechanically thinned logs on Monday, December 3, weather permitting. The burning will occur in the vicinity of Rose Canyon Lake, near Milepost 17 on the Mt. Lemmon highway, and may continue into the week.

“We need to take advantage of wet periods to ignite the piles,” said Bill Hart, Fuels Officer for the ranger district. “These periods provide windows when conditions are acceptable for burning piles of dried fuel but not conducive to the spread of wildfire.”

District personnel cut trees to thin the forest and remove excess fuels which have built up over the last century of fire suppression. Historically, low-intensity ground fires burned through the forests, clearing underbrush and burning dead and down fuels, leaving forests open and park-like. In overstocked forests trees compete for limited moisture, making them vulnerable to insect attacks which leave them more susceptible to burning. Excess trees provide “ladder fuels,” which carry ground fire (fire which burns at ground level) up into the tree crowns and causes tree mortality. Forest thinning removes excess fuels (trees) with the objective of restoring forests to more natural tree densities, and to conditions which will support low-intensity ground fire as opposed to high-intensity crown fire.

Pile-burning projects will continue throughout the winter months as weather permits. District personnel will monitor the projects while burning occurs. For more information, please see our website at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/forest/fire/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/forest/fire/).