

Prescribed Fire Notice

USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
300 West Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701
www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado



Effective Immediately

CONTACT: Carl Ostermann (520) 388-8484

Forest Service Plans Cloverdale Burn in Peloncillo Mountains 2500 Acres Will Be Burned During a One or Two Day Period

DOUGLAS, AZ (April 30, 2009) During the first two weeks of May, the Douglas Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest plans to implement a prescribed fire project in the Peloncillo Mountains of southwest New Mexico. The first attempt will be made on or around May 7th. Weather and other conditions permitting, 2500 acres of National Forest and private land will be burned during a one or two day period. This is a second entry maintenance burn. The unit was part of the 48,000 acre Baker II Burn in June, 2003.

Partial funding for this project is provided by the New Mexico Fish and Game Department through the Habitat Stamp Program, which is a cooperative planning effort for wildlife conservation and rehabilitation. This funding comes from the required purchase of "Habitat Improvement Validation Stamps" by persons hunting, trapping or fishing on any public land within a state, in this case, the state of New Mexico. In addition, this project is partially funded through the National Fire Plan. Implementation of this prescribed fire is an effort to attain the foundational goal of the National Fire Plan: Restoration and Maintenance of Fire Adapted Ecosystems. This work will improve the resilience and sustainability of the grasslands, and conserve watersheds, species, and biodiversity. This project represents cooperation between the Coronado National Forest, New Mexico Fish and Game Department, the Animas Foundation, and local ranchers, who also are members of the Malpai Borderlands Group.

This burn is being implemented in coordination with other prescribed burns in the area to reduce the amount of smoke in the airshed. The burn will be ignited with south to west winds to eliminate smoke in any urban or smoke sensitive areas. The 2500 acre unit will be burned within a 24 hour period. The main fuel component is grass, which burns quickly, resulting in little, if any residual smoke. No impact is expected on Forest users.