

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Santa Fe National Forest



For Immediate Release

CONTACT: BRUCE HILL, USDA Forest Service
(505) 438-5320

October 4, 2011

Forest plans “Laguna Ortiz” prescribed burn in October

(SANTA FE, NM)— The Laguna Ortiz prescribed burn is planned between October 11 and November 4, as conditions allow, on the Santa Fe National Forest Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District. The 1,200 acre area will be treated by hand ignitions only and is located twelve miles south of the village of Pecos in the general area of Glorietta Mesa and Rowe Mesa near Forest Road 324.

The project is not planned to be continuous over the three week treatment period due to varying ground conditions, and changes in weather over time. Smoke may be visible to residents of Pecos/Las Vegas and travelers along I-25. The purpose of the prescribed burn will be to reduce the risk of future high intensity fire and restore forest health.

Smoke from prescribed fire can be a nuisance to some people and a health concern for others, such as children, pregnant women, senior citizens, and those suffering from allergies, asthma, chemical sensitivities, or other heart or lung diseases. To reduce exposure to smoke, stay indoors as much as possible with windows, doors and vents closed. Avoid or limit physical activities outdoors.

In the evenings, smoke settles into low lying areas, including drainages; however, lifts by mid-morning when the sun rises. Residents living in such low-lying areas may be most affected. Information on health impacts from smoke can be found by calling the New Mexico Department of Health at 1-888-878-8992, or: http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/documents/Health_Effects_Smoke_06152010.pdf

For more information on the planned prescribed burn, contact the Pecos Ranger District at (505)757-6121. Also, follow us on Twitter: SantaFeNF@SantafeNF

