

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service  
Santa Fe National Forest



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For Immediate Release      MEDIA CONTACT: BRUCE HILL, USDA Forest Service (505) 438-5320  
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## PILE BURN

### Forest plans Gallinas prescribed pile burn tomorrow

**SANTA FE, NM** – As conditions permit, fire managers will conduct prescribed pile burning tomorrow through Friday on the Pecos Ranger District. The location is 20 miles northwest of Las Vegas and six miles north of Mineral Hill. Up to 100 acres of piles are expected to be treated per day.

There may be smoke settling into the communities of Gallinas, El Porvenir, San Pablo, Mineral Hill, San Geronimo, and Gascon. Smoke may impact Hwy 65 and affect visual qualities of Hermit's Peak. District fire managers are closely monitoring weather forecasts and fuels conditions to ensure burn operations and objectives are met while minimizing the impacts of smoke on populated areas.

Slash piles consist of branches and debris from forest thinning projects, and are typically burned during winter since snow on the ground helps keep fire from spreading to surrounding vegetation. Prescribed fire is the managed application of fire to wildland fuels (woody material) under specified conditions within predetermined boundaries in an effort to reduce hazardous fuels, provide community protection, and restore forest health.

The Santa Fe National Forest realizes that smoke from prescribed fire can be a nuisance to some 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 conditions. To reduce smoke exposure, stay indoors with windows, doors and vents closed. Avoid or limit outdoor activities.

For more information on how to minimize health impacts from smoke, contact the New Mexico Department of Health at 1-888-878-8992. To understand more about the terminology used to describe fire, visit the on-line Wildland Fire Terminology Glossary: <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary/>. For more information on the Gallinas Prescribed Piles Burn, contact the Las Vegas Ranger station at 505-425-3535. Also, follow us on Twitter: twitter: @SantafeNF.

