



News Release

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest		
Bridgeport Ranger District		
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Bridgeport, CA 93517		

For Immediate Release on May 19, 2008;

Stop Date is May 30, 2008

Forest Service to Conduct Prescribed Burn on Bald Mountain

Bridgeport, CA...U.S. Forest Service crews will conduct a 3,200-acre prescribed fire on public land on the south side of Bald Mountain in a remote area of Lyon County, Nevada, starting Tuesday, May 20, 2008, through Friday, May 30, 2008. This scheduled burn may be postponed if weather, fuel, or smoke dispersal conditions are not within prescribed limits. The planned prescribed burn will occur approximately 20 miles northeast of Bridgeport, California, in the Sweetwater Mountain area.

“This important work will help reduce the build-up of heavy fuels and pinyon trees at the end of their lifecycle,” said Cheryl Probert, Bridgeport District Ranger. “This prescribed fire will improve wildlife habitat and reduce the risk of future large-scale fires in the area.”

A helicopter will light the planned fire using a helitorch, aided by firefighters on the ground. A helitorch is like a flying drip torch; it has a long wick that enables gelled gas to drip over the targeted area. The goal of this prescribed fire is to reduce heavy fuel loading in the pinyon pine trees. To accomplish this, the fire must carry through the tops of the trees.

“Although this may sound strange, ideal burning conditions for this type of prescribed fire call for moderate-to-hot temperatures and steady winds,” said Todd Baumer, Assistant Bridgeport Fire Management Officer. “Normally, firefighters do not want such weather, but it’s absolutely necessary to help carry fire through the tops of the trees.”

“We have every confidence in conducting this burn, especially since the area is remote and unpopulated, with few roads,” continued Baumer. “The fire behavior from this burn will be visible from a distance due to the fire intensity needed for the burn to be successful.” This prescribed fire will be conducted within the limits and standards set by the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, and an approved Forest Service prescribed fire burn plan.

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Travel on Forest Service road 028, near the bridge, may be restricted on the morning of Tuesday, May 20, to enhance public and firefighter safety. Visitors can expect to see numerous fire engines and personnel near the 028 road during this week, and may observe an increase in fire engines and firefighters in the area; please slow down and drive carefully to accommodate the extra traffic.

Questions concerning the Bridgeport Ranger District's upcoming prescribed fire or the fuels management program should be directed to Annamaria Echeverria Fuels Management Specialist, at 760-932-7070, or to Grace Newell, Fire Management Specialist, at 775-882-2766.

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