



# News Release

United States Department of  
Agriculture - Forest Service

Plumas National Forest  
P. O. Box 11500  
Quincy, California 95971

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contacts: Michele Jimenez-Holtz (530) 283-7744**

**Lee Anne Schramel Taylor (530) 283-7850**

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## **National Forest Prescribed Burning**

Recent weather changes including significant moisture and freezing temperatures will allow firefighters to begin fall prescribed burning. The purpose of burning is to provide defensible space around communities to better protect them from wildfire, and to reduce wildfire damage to trees, wildlife habitat, soil, and water resources.

There may be some concern about prescribed fire taking place so soon after a summer of large-scale wildfires. However, areas that were previously burned by prescribed fire (under-burns) in the Moonlight and Wheeler Fires showed lower fire intensity, less tree damage, and fewer impacts to wildlife and watershed resources. These under-burns also provided firefighters an area in which to safely fight the fires.

Fire management personnel work with the California Air Resource Board, Northern California Predictive Service Unit, and local air quality management districts to plan the prescribed burns so that smoke impacts to communities are minimized. While burning will only take place on permissive burn days, some smoke may settle into the valleys during the evenings and mornings until atmospheric conditions allow for smoke dispersal. Opportunities to burn are typically limited to several weeks in the spring and fall and are dependent on favorable weather conditions, fuel moisture levels, humidity, and availability of fire crews.

The Mt. Hough District has approximately 700 acres available to burn this fall, 400 acres of under-burning and 277 acres of machine and hand piles. The locations include: 200 acres of under-burning at the Chandler Wildland Urban Interface (east and north of Chandler Rd near Quincy) and 200 acres of maintenance under-burning on the Ridge Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ) (west of Quincy and north of Snake Lake). The majority of the machine piles (208 acres) are within the Meadow Valley Project, east of the Bucks Lake Road from Meadow Valley to McFarland Ravine, although some piles may be available north and west of Spanish Ranch. An additional 5 acres of machine and hand piles to burn on the Corridor Resource Advisory

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Committee (RAC) project near the Mt. Hough District office and 30 acres of hand piles to complete on the Red Clover Estates RAC project east of Genesee Valley to the north of the Flournoy Bridge. Smoke will be visible from the surrounding communities of Quincy, Indian Valley, and Meadow Valley during the burn periods.

The Feather River Ranger District will begin 1,126 acres of under-burning: 860 acres near Mooreville Ridge (S. Fork DFPZ), 100 acres near Forbestown (Slapjack DFPZ), 80 acres near Brush Creek (DFPZ), 3 acres in Paradise (McNaab Cypress), 8 acres near LaPorte (Slipper), 5 acres near Frog Rock (Bear Grass), 20 acres near Strawberry, and 50 acres near Pike County Lookout. Plans also include a total of 193 acres of machine piles and hand-piles: 50 acres near Brush Creek, 43 acres near LaPorte (Black Rock), and 100 acres scattered throughout the district.

The Beckwourth Ranger District underburns include the Squaw Valley area (Red Clover DFPZ) and the Mabie DFPZ. However, prescribed burning on the district is not expected to begin for a few weeks.

The actual number of acres burned in any given season is highly variable, based on site and weather conditions.

Questions regarding the fall burning program may be directed to Allan Setzer, Fire Management Officer, Plumas National Forest, (530) 283-2050.

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**Key points:**

- 1) Prescribed burn projects on the Plumas National Forest will begin soon.**
- 2) Burning to take place only on permissive burn days.**
- 3) Smoke may be visible from communities far removed from the immediate project area.**