



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
MESCALERO AGENCY
P.O. Box 189
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Prescribed Burns planned on the Mescalero Apache Reservation

October 26, 2020 through December 31, 2021

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The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Mescalero Agency will conduct several fuels treatments utilizing prescribed fire from October 26, 2020 through December 31, 2021, depending on current and expected weather conditions. Tactics to keep smoke impacts as minimal as possible include canceling approved burns when conditions are not favorable, timing daytime ignitions to allow the majority of smoke to disperse prior to settling overnight, and burning larger sections at a time when conditions are favorable to reduce the overall number of days smoke is in the area.

The following units are being considered for prescribed fire:

Whitetail Mountain RX: (T12S, R14E, Sections 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35) Centered around the BIA roads 3, 18, & 66.

Red Cabin/Nogal/Turkey Pen: (T15S, R12E, Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, 15) Centered around the BIA roads 41, 43, & 44.

Osborn Well: (T12S, R15E Sections 11, 14, 1, 12, 13, 24. T12S, R16E 6, 5, 4, 7, 8, 9, 18, 17, 16, 19, 20) Centered around the BIA road 31.

No. 5 Well: (T12S, R15E, Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18) Centered around the BIA road 31.

East Encino: (T12S, R14E, Section 24. T12s, R15E, Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 30, 28, 27) Centered around the BIA road 66.

Spur Well: (T13S, R16E, Sections 33, 34, 35, 36, T14S, R16E, Sections 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 9, 10, 11) Centered around BIA road 14.

Ross Gate: (T12S, R15E, Sections 27, 26, 34, 35, T13S, R15E Section 2) Centered around BIA road 7.

Rinconada: (No Sections in this Quadrangle) Centered around BIA road 11.

Flume Ridge: (T11S, R12E, Sections 24, 25, 26) Centered around BIA road 22.

In the interest of safety, Mescalero residents and visitors are reminded to obey all traffic signs and use caution when traveling in the vicinity of the prescribed fire burn units as firefighters and fire-related traffic will be in the area. Drivers should be prepared for short delays adjacent to the burns on Bureau of Indian Affairs roads; however no delays are expected on major highways.

Prescribed fires are one of the most effective tools available to resource managers for restoring fire-adapted ecosystems. These burns will mimic natural fires by reducing hazardous fuel accumulations, and reintroduce fire into a fire dependent ecosystem; and nutrient recycling and increasing habitat diversity.

Prescribed fires are managed with firefighter and public safety as the first priority.

All prescribed fire activities are dependent on the availability of personnel and equipment, weather forecasts, fuel moisture levels and conditions that minimize smoke impacts as best as possible.

Crews will be on scene from the beginning of ignitions until there is no longer a threat of escape from project boundaries. Areas will be monitored after ignitions have ceased.

We will provide updates on a regular basis as the prescribed burning continues.