



News Release

United States Department of
Agriculture - Forest Service

Plumas National Forest
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Plumas National Forest Prescribed Burning

Favorable weather conditions are allowing spring prescribed burning to occur on the Plumas National Forest. The purpose of burning is to reduce the amount of hazardous fuels that accumulate in the forest, minimizing the potential impact if a wildfire occurs during the summer. Burns are also used to restore native vegetation such as beargrass, and to improve general forest health. Most of the planned burning will complete Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group fuel-break work within defensible fuel profile zones.

Smoke from these projects will be visible from many parts of the county. Fire management personnel work with the Redding Fire Weather Center, the Northeast Air Alliance, local air quality managers, and adjacent Federal and State Agencies so that smoke impacts to communities are minimized. Even with these precautions, some smoke may settle into the valleys during the evenings and early morning hours 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, and the availability of fire crews.

The Feather River Ranger District has 388 acres to burn: 280 acres have already been burned near the Brush Creek Work Center with an additional 48 acres (between Berry and Brush Creeks in Butte County); and 70 acres near the Pike County Lookout in Yuba County. Smoke will be visible from Oroville, Chico, and Yuba County. Additionally, 3 acres in the McNaab Cypress area north of Paradise will be burned as part of a study to determine how well cypress seeds germinate after fire.

The Beckwourth Ranger District has 3,104 acres available to burn: Red Clover near Red Clover Valley area (300 acres), Buck near Dixie Valley and west of Frenchman Lake (145 acres), Blakemore (Blakeless Canyon) west of Lake Davis (135 acres), and Mabie near Delleker and Portola (2,500 acres).

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The Mt. Hough Ranger District has 600 acres available to burn: Green Flat northeast of Taylorsville near Green Flat (300 acres), Empire north of Massack (100 acres), Ridge northwest of Quincy on the ridgeline above and north of Snake Lake (100 acres), the Genesee Fuels Treatment project northeast of Genesee and north of the Walking G Ranch (100 acres), and the Chandler on the north side of Chandler Road (100 acres), north of Quincy.

The number of acres burned in any given season is highly variable, and depends upon the number of days when weather conditions allow for both the burning to be completed safely and the smoke impacts to communities minimized.

Questions regarding the spring burning program may be directed to Pete Duncan, Assistant Fire Management Officer, Plumas National Forest, (530) 283-2050.

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Key points:

- 1) Prescribed burn projects on the Plumas National Forest have begun.**
- 2) Smoke may be visible from communities far removed from the immediate project area.**