

NEWS RELEASE

*United States
Department of
Agriculture
Southwest Region*

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Prescribed fires planned near Globe through end of year

Globe, Ariz. (June 11, 2010) -- Two prescribed fire projects will be conducted by Globe Ranger District fire management specialists on the Tonto National Forest, from June through the end of the year. The projects target approximately 6,000 acres north of Globe in the Sevenmile Wash area, and 400 acres on Pinal Peak.

“The purpose of these prescribed fires is to reduce the hazardous fuels in these areas and lower the chances of catastrophic fire, which could burn onto private land and endanger valuable electronic sites and private property. The prescribed fires will also help promote a healthier forest and watershed,” said Rick Reitz, Globe District Ranger.

The Sevenmile Prescribed Fire will treat approximately 6,000 acres of grass and brush vegetation. The Pinal Mountain Prescribed Fire will treat approximately 400 acres of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer vegetation. “These projects help restore the natural role of fire in these areas,” stated Fire Management Officer Quentin Johnson.

Years of planning and preparation have been completed for these projects, resulting in a prescribed fire plan that will safely treat the overgrown vegetation in these areas. Burning dates will depend on weather conditions and availability of fire management specialists to safely conduct the burns.

Area residents and visitors can expect to see smoke from these prescribed fires, which at times may become moderately heavy. For more information, please contact the Globe Ranger District at (928) 402-6200, or visit the Tonto National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto>