



United States Department of Agriculture

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Spring Mountains National Recreation Area
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<http://www.fs.usda.gov/htnfv/>



News Release

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Spring Mountains National Recreation Area Scheduled to Conduct Prescribed Burning

Las Vegas, Feb. 5, 2021 – As part of Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest’s hazardous fuels reduction efforts, the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area’s (SMNRA) fire crews will begin pile burning beginning in February to May 2021, weather and fuel conditions permitting.

Prescribed fire is a proactive tool used to achieve a number of purposes, including the reduction of hazardous fuels (overgrown vegetation). The three general types of prescribed fire are pile burning, understory/underburning, and broadcast burning. They all help decrease the threat of high intensity, high-severity wildfires; reduce the risk of insect and disease outbreak; recycle nutrients that increase soil productivity; and improve wildlife habitat. Another benefit resulting from prescribed fire is a reduction in wildfire danger to local communities.

The actual days of ignition for pile burning will depend on several factors including appropriate humidity levels, wind speed and direction, temperature, and fuel moisture. Burns only occur on days when weather conditions exist for smoke dispersal. The public can get prescribed burn updates by visiting the Forest’s Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HumboldtToiyabeNF/>) or Twitter (<https://twitter.com/HumboldtToiyabe>) pages.

“Air quality considerations are an important part of prescribed fire, and each fire prescription is planned to disperse smoke rapidly and reduce lingering haze,” said Fuels Specialist Josh Thalacker. “Before each prescribed fire is ignited, fire managers will get approval from the local air quality district in which the burn is to take place.”

Fire crews divide large landscape burns into blocks of land over multiple days. This allows them to halt burning activity within those areas if anything is out of the pre-established prescription conditions, such as too much wind. Crews can start again when conditions are more acceptable. Fire managers create a burn plan, which includes smoke management details, fire control measures, acceptable weather parameters, and equipment and personnel needs. The burn plan also describes in detail how the ecosystem will benefit from fire.

Please do not call 911 about burning in the areas referred below. Local fire departments are aware of these burning activities. For information on pile burning activities on the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, please call Josh Thalacker at 702-515-5441.



Possible burn locations include:

- **The Kyle Borrow Pit**
 - Roughly two acres of pile burning is planned near mile marker 5 off of Nevada State Route 157 (Kyle Canyon Road), across the road from the Forest Service Fire Station.
- **The Lee Canyon Borrow Pit**
 - Roughly two acres of pile burning is planned along the north side of the road near mile marker 7 on Nevada State Route 156 (Lee Canyon Road).
- **Cathedral Rock Picnic Area**
 - Roughly three acres of pile burning is planned on the upper area of the Cathedral Rock Picnic Area at the end of Nevada State Route 157 (Kyle Canyon Road).
- **Potosi Hazardous Fuels**
 - Roughly 400 acres of pile burning is planned near mile marker 20 on Nevada State Route 160, one mile south of Mountain Springs.
- **Camp Stimpson**
 - Approximately 20 acres of pile burning is planned near mile marker 6 on Nevada State Route 158. One-half mile Northwest of Deer Creek Picnic Area.

For additional information on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, please visit www.fs.usda.gov/htnf or participate in the conversation at <https://twitter.com/HumboldtToiyabe> and <https://www.facebook.com/HumboldtToiyabeNF/>.

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The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest's spectacular 6.3 million acres make it the largest national forest in the lower 48 states. Located in Nevada and a small portion of eastern California, the Forest offers year-round recreation of all types.

