



## Forest Service News Release

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### Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to Start Pile Burning on the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area

**Las Vegas, Nev., JAN. 6, 2023** – 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 January, weather and fuel conditions permitting.

Prescribed fire is a proactive tool for several purposes, including reducing 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 outbreaks; 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://facebook.com/HumboldtToiyabeNF/>) or Twitter (<https://twitter.com/HumboldtToiyabe>) pages.

Air quality considerations are an essential part of prescribed fire, and each fire prescription is planned to disperse smoke rapidly and reduce lingering haze. 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 extensive 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 listed below. Local fire departments are aware of these burning activities.** For information on pile-burning activities on the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, please contact SMNRA Fire Management Officer Ray Dombroski at [raymond.dombroski@usda.gov](mailto:raymond.dombroski@usda.gov) or 702-515-5422.



An ArcGIS StoryMap that explains how prescribed fire is good for National Forest System land can be viewed at:

<https://bit.ly/PrescribedFireStoryMap>

**Possible burn locations include:**

- **Potosi Pass**
  - Roughly 100 acres of pile burning is planned in the Mt. Potosi area near mile marker 20 on Nevada State Route 160, one mile south of Mountain Springs, Nevada.
- **Coal Springs/Lovell Summit**
  - Roughly 300 acres of pile burning is planned along the Forest Service Road 45536 (Lovell Summit Road) between Lovell and Trout Canyons.
- **Clark Canyon**
  - Nearly 250 acres of pile burning is planned near Clark Canyon, approximately 15 miles northeast of Pahrump, Nevada.
- **Lee Canyon Guard Station**
  - Roughly two acres of pile burning is planned along the north side of Nevada State Route 156 (Lee Canyon Road) near mile marker one.
- **Camp Stimson**
  - Approximately 20 acres of pile burning is planned near mile marker six on Nevada State Route 158 (Deer Creek Highway), one-half mile northwest of Deer Creek Picnic Area.
- **Rainbow Canyon Summer Homes**
  - Around 49 acres of pile burning is planned near mile marker two of Nevada State Route 157 (Kyle Canyon Road), one-tenth of a mile southeast of the Kyle Canyon Rainbow subdivision.

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