



Forest Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Carson National Forest

Crews Plan to Pile Burn Near Turley Mill

Recent Precipitation Prompts Temporary Change in Focus for Prescribed Fire

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Fire managers are planning to take advantage of recent storms to conduct pile burning on 74 acres northeast of the Turley Mill neighborhood to the north of Taos. Ignitions could begin as early as Monday morning and last up to 5 days.

“Even with the change in the conditions, we’re thankfully still able to put in the work to reduce the threat of wildfire around neighborhoods,” said Fuels and Fire Chief Jamie Long.

Crews usually conduct understory burning at this time of year, when fire is applied broadly across large acreages of forest floor and grasslands. But with recent weather dampening the ground, [pile burning](#)  becomes the available option for prescribed fire.

The piles are the result of forest thinning in 2023 as part of the Kiowa-San Cristobal Wildland Urban Interface Project, which has a goal of reducing the threat of fire to several neighborhoods abutting national forest land. The pile unit is surrounded by control lines.

Pending required approvals, fire managers will only move forward with ignitions if weather and fuels conditions are safe and conducive for burning.

A test burn to observe fire behavior will be conducted each day to determine if ignitions should move forward. If successful, full ignitions will commence and crews will patrol and monitor the area until the fire is called out, an effort that can take weeks to months, depending on future weather. Smoldering piles may put off a glow each night after ignitions.

More pile burning in the Kiowa-San Cristobal project area is planned for this fall/winter and in future years.

To receive ignition notices and more information from Carson National Forest, sign up emails at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r03/carson/keep-in-touch> .

