



NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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For Immediate Release

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Prescribed Burn Set for Taos County

TAOS – A prescribed burn that includes 320 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-managed land has been planned by the BLM - Taos Field Office about 5 miles west of Penasco and Picuris Pueblo, according to Ron Huntsinger, field manager of the BLM field office in Taos.

The Copper Hill Prescribed Burn is planned for May 9-20, 2001 and is intended to reduce the threat of potential wildfire.



At a prescribed burn at the Chimayo Scout Camp, firefighters' reflective gear gives off an eerie glow. BLM photo.

“The objective is to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in the Penasco and Picuris Pueblo area, as well as to improve the condition of the forest,” said Pat Pacheco fire management officer at the Taos field office, adding that a prescribed burn will not take place unless optimum weather and fuel conditions are present.

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Extra precaution is being taken to ensure this burn, like all BLM prescribed burns, is done in a safe manner. Extra fire suppression will be on-hand to ensure an added buffer of security. Prescribed burns of this type usually call for one fire engine and 10 people for suppression. During this prescribed burn, there will be 2-3 fire engines, approximately 50 people, and a base camp established near town for reinforcement capability.

Personnel will remain at the site throughout the burn project, including through the nighttime hours.

The BLM manages about 264 million acres of public lands and provides fire projection for 388 million acres. The agency is responsible for managing public lands and resources to ensure multiple use and yield based on long-term needs for renewable and non-renewable resources.

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