



NEWS RELEASE

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BLM Releases Preliminary Environmental Assessment for Fire and Fuels Management in New Mexico and Texas

The Bureau of Land Management's New Mexico State Office has released a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) about fire management on public lands throughout New Mexico and Texas. The public is invited to provide input on the new Fire and Fuels Resource Management Plan Amendment that will affect more than 12 million acres of land in the two states.

Issues addressed in the Preliminary EA include: when to let wildfire burn and where, fuels treatments, ecosystem rehabilitation, and restoration.

The Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy of 2001 requires nine Resource Management Plans be updated to address the fire management changes necessary to protect people in the wildland-urban interface, maintain healthy public lands, and restore fire as an integral part of fire-adapted ecosystems.

Wildfires have increased at an unprecedented rate over the last five years. Almost 106,000 acres of land has burned in New Mexico and Texas during this time. Additionally, a severe drought has exacerbated beetle kill of piñon and ponderosa pine forests, increasing the fire danger situation for this coming season.

Please visit our website at www.nm.blm.gov to view the Preliminary EA. You can request a copy or provide comments by emailing NM_FF_Management@nm.blm.gov or by calling Signa Larralde at 505.438.7637.

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