



# NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Pile burning reduces wildland fire risk**

Residents of Piños Altos and Silver City Can Expect Smokey Skies Next Week

Smoke will be highly visible the week of October 4<sup>th</sup>, as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) burns slash piles in the Piños Altos area.

The 30-acre area scheduled for pile-burning is half a mile west of Piños Altos, off of NM-Highway 15. There will also be some burning a mile north of town. Both Piños Altos and Silver City will see smoke during the project.

Heaped together in the slash piles are ponderosa pine, oak, piñon and juniper limbs, which have been ageing since this fuels project started in 2001. Next week's effort will cover 30 acres of 200 acres of piles created while reducing hazardous fuels and fire risk to the Piños Altos community. The fuels reduction project will eventually cover 1,900 acres in the surrounding area.

“Right now is a good time to burn because all of the recent moisture has created conditions conducive to low-intensity fire,” said BLM Fuels Management Specialist Ryan Whiteaker.

A crew of seven people and two engines will be burning the piles. The BLM will notify local State and federal fire agencies and the Sheriffs Office on all days that burning is conducted. Please feel free to contact the BLM or local fire departments with any questions or concerns about smoke in the area.

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