

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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BLM Hosts Fire and Fuels Open Houses Throughout New Mexico and Texas

The Bureau of Land Management's New Mexico State Office has scheduled a series of open houses, about fire management throughout New Mexico and Texas, in May and June. 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 public land in the two states.

Meetings will begin with a short introduction to current fire management practices and the planning process. [Meeting times vary—please call your local office for the start time.] The public will have an opportunity to speak with specialists, ask questions and submit comments. Issues to be discussed include: when to let wildfire burn and where, fuels treatments, ecosystem rehabilitation and restoration.

Meeting dates and locations:

- May 22nd, Bloomfield, NM, at the Bloomfield Civic Center, 333 S. 1st Street, 5-8 p.m.
- May 28th, Amarillo, TX, at the BLM Amarillo Field Office, 801 S. Fillmore Street, Suite 500, 5-8 p.m.
- June 2nd, Santa Fe, NM, at the BLM New Mexico State Office, 1474 Rodeo Rd., 6-8 p.m.
- June 3rd, Taos, NM, at the BLM Taos Field Office, 226 Cruz Alta Rd., 6-8 p.m.
- June 4th, Tres Piedras, NM, at the Tres Piedras Ranger District Office, 6-8 p.m.
- June 5th, Questa, NM, at the Questa Village Council Chambers, 6-8 p.m.
- June 6th, Las Vegas, NM, at Luna Community College, Learning Resource Center Lecture Hall, 6-8 p.m.
- June 9th, Las Cruces, NM, at the BLM Las Cruces Field Office, 1800 Marquess St., 5-8 p.m.
- June 10th, Socorro, NM, date pending, location to be announced.
- June 11th, Datil, NM, date pending, location to be announced.
- June 17th, Roswell, NM, at the BLM Roswell Field Office, 2909 W. 2nd St., 5-8 p.m.
- June 18th, Carlsbad, NM, BLM Carlsbad Field Office, 620 E. Greene St., 5-8 p.m.
- June 19th, Albuquerque, NM, at the BLM Albuquerque Field Office, 435 Montano Rd. NE, 5-8 p.m.

The Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy of 2001 requires nine of this region's 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 for more information.