



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Prescott National Forest

Forest Service News Release

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Pile Burning Planned Near Potato Patch Campground

Favorable weather conditions in place for hazardous fuels reduction work

PRESCOTT, AZ, (Oct. 20, 2026) — Fire managers on the Prescott National Forest plan to conduct prescribed fire operations, specifically pile burning, in the area of Potato Patch Campground on the Verde Ranger District. The project will cover about 204 acres to remove hazardous fuels. Pending all required approvals, ignitions could begin as early as Monday, Oct. 26, and continue for three days as conditions remain favorable.

Recent and ongoing rainfall has provided conditions suitable for pile burning in multiple areas across the forest.

Smoke impacts are expected to be light and visible from State Route 89A at Mingus Summit. Smoke may affect several locations, including the Verde Valley and Prescott Valley. Smoke will be heaviest during ignitions, and as nighttime temperatures cool, it may linger in drainages and valleys. For more detailed air quality information, visit <https://fire.airnow.gov/>.

The Prescott National Forest's land management strategy focuses on long-term forest health and reducing forest fuels. Prescribed fire with low to moderate fire behavior can reduce hazardous fuels and increase forest and community resilience. In the wildland-urban interface, prescribed fire reduces the risk of wildfire to communities by creating buffer zones where unwanted wildfires can be more safely contained.

All prescribed fire activity depends on the availability of personnel and equipment, weather, fuels, and approval from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. For more information on ADEQ, visit www.azdeq.gov. In the interest of safety, forest visitors are reminded to obey all traffic signs and use caution when traveling near prescribed burns, as firefighters and fire-related traffic will be in the area.

Stay up to date on Prescott National Forest news by checking the [Prescott NF website](#) and following us on [Facebook](#).

About the Forest Service: The USDA Forest Service has for more than 100 years brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology— and rooted in communities—the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest Service also has either

a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

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