

Smoke Management Talking Points

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- The Forest Service recognizes the need to increase the use of fire as a tool to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems.
- The Forest Service is committed to healthy air and the Clean Air Act.
- The Forest Service is committed to working with our cooperators, and Federal State and local Air Quality Managers.
- The Forest Service adheres to all regulations administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as State and local Air Quality agencies.
- The 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Forest Service to document and analyze environmental effects of a proposed project; use of prescribed fire may be a tool used in the project. The potential effects of project implementation, including impacts on air quality, are analyzed during the NEPA process. The Forest Service solicits comments during this process.
- Burning techniques used by the Forest Service are Reasonably Available Control Measures (RACM), and Best Available Control Measures (BACM).
- Prescribed fires are burned under good burning and smoke management conditions; wildfires occur naturally, and often burn under severe burning and smoke management conditions.
- Smoke from prescribed fires is often less than what would be expected from a large wildfire.
- Forest Service researchers are known for their expertise in smoke modeling.
- Fire Use Message (NWCG Fire Use WT)
- Fire Ecology Message (NWCG Fire Use WT)
- The Forest Service strives to minimize the amount of emissions produced from prescribed fire programs, and to minimize the impacts on local communities.