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# News Release

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## Apache-Sitgreaves NFs Turkey Fire benefits landscape near Pinetop

**Springerville, Ariz., June 28, 2015, For Immediate Release** — The Turkey Fire located 5 miles northeast of Pinetop, AZ on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests fire managers are utilizing a lightning-caused fire to benefit the landscape.

The Turkey Fire continues to benefit forest health and fuels reduction. **The forest needs frequent, low severity fire** to restore wildlife habitat, promote healthy vegetation, reduce fuels and the risk of severe fire, and create safer conditions for residents, visitors, and firefighters.

**The fires will increase in size, but not severity.** Firefighters will be conducting burnout operations to manage where and how the fire moves through the landscape, maintaining a low to moderate overall severity. In these cases, fire growth is desirable.

**Expect smoke to increase;** it will be very noticeable yet still much lighter than that of an uncharacteristically severe fire. Fire managers will closely monitor smoke impacts.

The Turkey Fires is not a prescribed burn. Though the resource benefits will be similar, **this is a wildfire** that will be used as nature intended. This means they do not have planned "end dates." Fire managers have carefully determined larger perimeters within which the fires may run its natural course. As long as conditions allow and objectives are being met, crews will continue actively managing these fires. Ultimately, fire will treat portions of, or all of, the land inside these boundaries

Smoke may reduce visibility and fire personnel will be working near the roads. No closures to these roads are anticipated.

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## **TURKEY FIRE OVERVIEW**

**Start Date:** June 24, 2015

**Acres Treated:** 200 acres

**Location:** Five miles northeast of Pinetop, east of FS Road (FSR) 182, South of FSR 7

**Behavior:** Creeping, smoldering across the forest floor.

**Smoke:** Noticeable along AZ Hwy 260 and US Hwy 60. Smoke will generally disperse to the northeast during the day, and will drift toward St. Johns.

**Weather Forecast:** Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms throughout the day.

**Closures:** There are no road closures due to this fire.

**Today's Management Actions:** The Turkey Fire received rain yesterday afternoon, but not before fire crews ignited the area adjacent to Forest Road 7 which will provide an effective fire boundary on the north side of the fire. It is anticipated that the fire will naturally move east from Turkey Mountain. In the past 24 hours the fire has burned within the confines of Forest Road 7C.

Find online information for the Turkey Fire on Inciweb at [www.inciweb.nwcg.gov](http://www.inciweb.nwcg.gov). Follow the forest on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/apachesitgreavesnf](https://www.facebook.com/apachesitgreavesnf) and Twitter at (@A\_SNFs). Photos will be available on the forest Flickr site at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/apachesitgreavesnf>

Questions or concerns contact Ben Plumb, Lakeside Ranger District Assistant Fire Management Officer during regular business hours at (928) 368-2100 or by calling 311 or 928-333-3412. Also, check out the ASNFs website at: [www.fs.usda.gov/asnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf)

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