



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Inyo National Forest

Forest Service News Release

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Antelope Prescribed Fire Planned

BISHOP, CA April 9th, 2021— Weather and air quality conditions permitting, fire crews plan to conduct the Antelope Prescribed Fire next week, starting as early as Sunday April 11, and continuing until the end of April as conditions allow.

This unit is east of Highway 395, near Smokey Bear Flat, and south of the Owens River Road. They are targeting to complete approximately 700 acres while favorable conditions permit. Crews are taking advantage of recent snowmelt and rain to safely conduct this prescribed fire before conditions become too dry.

This project is in Jeffrey pine forest and can be completed in smaller units if necessary, using the road system to define sub-unit perimeters. Crews will work with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District to ensure they take advantage of good smoke dispersal windows.

This area has seen previous mechanical thinning and forest debris pile burning, so these prescribed fires are the next step in restoring the natural fire cycle in the Jeffrey pine forest, which historically had a frequent fire cycle (about every 5-15 years). This will encourage biodiversity as well as help make the forest more resistant to fires of unnatural size and intensity.

Smoke may be visible at times from Highways 395, 158, and 203, as well as the communities of June Lake, Lee Vining, Mammoth Lakes, and Crowley Lake.

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