

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Santa Rosa Treatment Project Begins on Wednesday

Santa Fe, NM— New Mexico State Forestry (NMSF) crews will begin a treatment project at the Blue Hole Cienega Nature Preserve in Santa Rosa on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. The prescribed burn is expected to last two days, with the targeted area to the south of Blue Hole Spring Park and above Highway 91 in Guadalupe County.

The Preserve, owned and managed by the Forestry Division, protects state endangered plant species. The prescribed burn will help restore and rejuvenate the native plant community on the cienega and aims to benefit plants which include the Pecos sunflower, Wright's marsh thistle and the Great Plains ladies' tresses orchid.

The endeavor will also mitigate wildfire risks in this critical area by reducing the grasses and hazardous trees, and will restore the site's ecosystem, strengthening its wildfire resilience. The project will treat approximately 116 acres.

Individuals in the surrounding area who have smoke sensitivities are advised to limit their outdoor exposure during the burn. Windows should remain closed and air should be circulated from within one's living space. Smoke may drift offsite, and travelers should be aware of the potential impact to visibility on the surrounding roads.

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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