



**U.S. Forest Service
Cibola National Forest and
National Grasslands**

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News Release

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Triple Nickel Fire Being Managed on Mount Taylor Ranger District

Grants, NM, August 19, 2019 – Recent rains have created very favorable conditions, allowing Fire managers from The Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands to manage a lightning caused fire for resource benefit on the Mt. Taylor Ranger District. The Triple Nickel fire will be carefully monitored as it burns naturally in the ecosystem, promoting forest health and resilience while reducing the potential for future catastrophic wildfires. Along with burning unwanted dead and down woody material, it will remove encroaching conifer trees from historic open meadows, increase plant diversity, improve wildlife habitat, and restore the natural fire regime.

- Name – Triple Nickel Fire
- Location – near the junction of Forest Service Road 239 and 555.
- Township 7W Range 13N section 24
- Current size - 150 acres
- Expected size – 1000 to 3000 acres, depending on weather

Smoke will likely be visible from Highway 550 and Interstate 40, east and northeast of Grants. Smoke impacts may occur on Forest Roads #555, #239, and #51, particularly in the evening hours when temperatures cool. Smoke will be monitored to assess potential health impacts and the Forest Service will coordinate with the New Mexico Environment Department and Department of Health to issue any needed alerts. Additional information can be found at <http://nmtracking.org/fire>

Please contact Fire Management Officer Eddie Baca at the Mount Taylor Ranger District if you have any questions - 505-287-8833.

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