



News Release

USDA Forest Service

Coronado National Forest

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Effective Immediately

CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST FUEL REMOVAL PROJECT Project near Oracle in Wildland-Urban Interface

TUCSON, AZ (March 8, 2010) – The Coronado National Forest, Santa Catalina Ranger District has recently awarded a contract to complete 160 acres of mechanical fuels reduction treatment on Forest lands adjacent to private property. The project is located near Cody Loop Road in Oracle, Arizona. Work is scheduled to begin on or about March 15 and conclude on or about April 24, 2010.

“This project will complement work being done by the Community of Oracle and the Arizona State Forestry Division,” said Stan Helin, Santa Catalina District Ranger. “Each project separately will provide protection for Oracle and adjacent lands. When combined those effects will be magnified significantly.”

The 160-acre project is a significant contribution to the 14,000 acre Oracle Ridge Ecosystem Restoration Project, which includes a variety of tools for fuels reduction. It is in the wildland-urban interface of Oracle, Arizona and will enhance wildland fire protection by removing old decadent brush which is presently a fire hazard. A small tractor with a brush crushing attachment will be used to “masticate” the plant material.

The work is being done adjacent to fuels reduction projects being undertaken by the community of Oracle and the Arizona State Forestry Division under the umbrella of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. When completed, the project will provide a large contiguous fuel break on National Forest, State lands, and private property.

For more information, please call Santa Catalina Assistant Fire Management Officer Rodgers Wright at (520) 749-7708.