

NEWS

*United States
Department of
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*Southwestern Region
Public Affairs Office
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Forest Service Hosts Fire/Flood Recovery and Restoration Workshops

Albuquerque, NM — The Southwestern Region of the Forest Service is working with federal, state, and local agency partners to host two Fire and Flood Recovery workshops, which will provide communities affected by fires and floods with a forum to learn about available funding and technical assistance opportunities. The workshops will be held Wednesday, July 27 in Sierra Vista, AZ and Thursday, July 28 in Eager, AZ, and are open to individual homeowners, business owners, community leaders, and affected tribes.

“I know fires and floods have or will affect many in our state, and it can be very difficult to navigate the various assistance programs,” stated Regional Forester Corbin Newman. “I’m very pleased USDA agencies as well as representatives from other federal, state, and local agencies can offer this opportunity for our communities to learn what programs are available to them,” he added.

Southeastern Arizona received 2 percent or less of normal precipitation for the first 6 months of the year. The record dry conditions were accompanied by higher than normal temperatures, sustained high winds through May and June, and extremely low relative humidity readings – all contributing to extremely volatile fire potential. Large fires began with the Horseshoe 2 Fire on the Coronado National Forest and the Wallow Fire on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest – both starting in May. The Monument Fire, another on the Coronado Forest, started in June. Now, many areas of the state are receiving monsoonal moisture, which can and will bring floods and other impacts to burned areas and surrounding communities.

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The workshops will begin with a brief overview of the fire season, immediate efforts underway to stabilize burned areas and protect communities from floods, and the long-term needs for restoration. The remainder will be an open house format where attendees can meet with agency representatives who have information on assistance programs. Information will be available on topics such as rehabilitation efforts; grazing; livestock and agriculture; watershed and forest restoration; community infrastructure; small business assistance; and housing and insurance. There will be an identical afternoon (2:00 – 4:30 p.m.) and evening session (6:00 – 8:30 p.m.) at each location.

Among the representatives at the workshops will be the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development, Farm Service Agency, FEMA, AZ State Forestry, AZ Division of Emergency Management, AZ Department of Agriculture and AZ Department of Insurance, and other county and local agency partners.

Dates, times, and locations:

July 27 – Sierra Vista, AZ
2:00 - 4:30 p.m. & 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Sierra Suites
391 E. Fry Boulevard

July 28 – Eager, AZ
2:00 - 4:30 p.m. & 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Round Valley High School
550 N Butler Street

Information on these workshops are also posted at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/r3>.

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