

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/30/2024 11:10:19 PM

First name: Marie

Last name: Maher

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Regarding the removal of the underbrush, I am in favor of doing so ASAP. I agree that community involvement along with any other help should be utilized. This should be top priority.

As far as performing a prescribed burn, my preference would be to avoid doing so if possible. However, if it is determined that a burn is the only effective way to remove enough fuel to sufficiently reduce the risk of fire, it must be done with extreme caution.

I figure that at most about 1/3 of the year would be safe to do a prescribed burn. Performing a burn between November-February could be workable. To even consider starting a fire from March-October is unconscionable. Starting in March, we have extremely high winds that are often gusty. This continues into at least the early summer when the temperature becomes extremely high and the humidity drops into the single digits. These conditions persist into the fall.

Some prescribed burns in the past were not fully extinguished, despite your having thought they were, and later reignited causing great damage. One example of this is the Calf Canyon Fire, supposedly extinguished in January only to erupt again on April 9 due to high winds. Because of this possibility, it would seem as though a burn would be more safely conducted in November-December rather than February since high winds generally start ramping up in March.

Perhaps in the past it was safe to perform prescribed burns more year round, but with the current erratic, extreme weather conditions caused by climate change that is no longer the case.