



Forest Service News Release

Oracle Fuel Break – Phase 2

Santa Catalina Ranger District

(Tucson, AZ, August 6, 2026) – Phase 2 of the Oracle Fuel Break project is scheduled to take place from Aug. 11 through Sept. 15, 2026. The timeline is subject to favorable weather conditions and adherence to all necessary approvals.

The project location is directly south of the town of Oracle, on National Forest Service land, and within the Catalina-Rincon Mountain FireScope. Once complete, a 300-foot fuel break, covering 60 acres, will be established reducing fuel loading adjacent to private property (see Oracle Fuel Break map).

The purpose of this project is to increase the probability of success in protecting the town of Oracle from the negative effects of a wildland fire. The fuel break is not designed to stop fires but instead to change the fire's behavior and intensity. In addition, the fire break can be used as anchor points for indirect or direct attack lines during prescribed or wildland fires.

Completed - Phase 1 (34 Acres):

- Cut material was chipped and hauled off-site.
- Road system and fire break were improved for the chipper and chipper truck.
- Fuel break was closed in accordance with forest engineering and recreation standards after project completion.

Phase 2 (26 Acres):

- Burn current hand piles established with a minimum pile size of 8 feet tall and 10 feet wide.

The Oracle Fuel Break will require periodic maintenance every two to three years. This will involve removing shrub litter, brush, and grasses; strategic herbicidal application; thinning ladder fuels up to 5 feet above ground level; and reestablishing line construction with handheld or heavy equipment.

Nearby residents or visitors may experience smoke during the prescribed pile burn. For more detailed information about air quality, go to [AirNow](#) online or download the app.

The Forest Service will evaluate weather conditions in the hours before the prescribed pile burn begins. If conditions warrant, scheduled prescribed fire activities may be canceled.

For any additional questions email Mailroom_R3_Coronado@usda.gov. For the most current updates about the Coronado National Forest, please follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CoronadoNF>.

Catalina-Rincon Mountains FireScope (CRFS): The CRFS project area comprises approximately 265,000 acres of National Forest System lands in Pima, Pinal, and Cochise counties, including two wilderness areas, two research natural areas, and six inventoried roadless areas. The CRFS is a landscape-scale restoration project that focuses on promoting resilient ecosystems; protecting life, property, and natural resources; and encouraging natural wildland fire to function as a healthy process in the ecosystem.