

Prescribed burns start in Mountain Rest

THE JOURNAL STAFF

MOUNTAIN REST — About 8,000 acres of the Sumter National Forest in Oconee County will be intentionally burned over the next six months, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

The 8,000 acres are part of the approximately 118,000 acres that will be burned off in a prescribed burn throughout the state in the Francis Marion and Sumter national forests, according to a Forest Service news release.

Prescribed burns are “ignited by trained personnel and partners to remove excess fuels, such as vegetation and dead wood, that would enable wildfires to burn hotter and longer,” the release said.

“Applying prescribed fire on the land at the right place, at the right time, under the right conditions benefits the land and the surrounding communities,” the release said. “Prescribed fire is used as a critical management tool to improve plant and animal habitat and the resiliency of forest landscapes to withstand drought,

insects and disease. Prescribed fire activity is dependent on the availability of trained Forest Service personnel, equipment, weather, fuels and conditions that minimize smoke impacts to the public.”

Smoke will be noticeable, and drivers should use their low beams if they are driving in thick smoke.

To contact the Andrew Pickens Ranger District, which is in Oconee County, call the district office in Mountain Rest at (864) 638-9568.



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Smoke will be noticeable emanating from the northwestern end of Oconee County at times over the next six months due to prescribed burns overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.