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## Saguaro National Park News Release

*For Immediate Release*

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Fire Information Hotline (520) 733-5150

### TRAILS REOPENED FOLLOWING PRESCRIBED BURN

Tucson, AZ – On June 26<sup>th</sup> the Mica Mountain Prescribed Burn was successfully completed. 114 acres were burned at the 8,000 foot site atop the Rincon Mountains. Crews have been patrolling and mopping up hot spots in the burned area, and it is now safe to reopen most trails in the area.

All trails have now been reopened, with the following exception. A short,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile section of the Fire Loop Trail, from Reef Rock northward remains closed. All campgrounds have also been reopened, including Manning Camp, Grass Shack and Spud Rock.

Due to the potential for underground smoldering in old stumps, hikers and equestrians are reminded to stay on the trail when traveling through the burn area. As with any trail in the Saguaro Wilderness, be alert for the possibility of falling live or dead trees, especially during periods of strong winds.

Fire officials had hoped to burn additional areas, but unfavorable weather and environmental conditions placed the burn outside its prescription parameters. Initial observations indicate the burn met its objectives of protecting Mexican spotted owl habitat and reducing woody debris and small trees that can fuel intense fire. Later this summer tree mortality and consumption of dead and downed logs will be measured in research plots established within the area.

For updated information please call the park's Fire Information Hotline at (520) 733-5150. Additional information and photographs of the prescribed burn are available on the NPS Fire and Aviation Management website at [www.nps.gov/fire](http://www.nps.gov/fire).