

## National Fire Plan Hazardous Fuels Reduction New Mexico



In June 2000, the lightning-caused Chance Fire burned 33,800 acres on Pelona Mountain in the Socorro BLM Field Office. Pelona Mountain has been the site of a number of prescribed fires, and the Chance wildfire, one of the largest on record for BLM New Mexico, burned into five of these projects.

The prescribed fires on Pelona Mountain were carried out under an assortment of prescriptions, depending on the stand conditions and current and historical weather conditions at the time of the burns. As the Chance fire burned through the Ponderosa that had been treated with prescribed fire of moderate or high intensity, it was well within the limits that could be tolerated by the Ponderosa. The areas that had been treated with moderate to high intensity prescribed fire to reduce Piñon/Juniper density and/or encroachment greatly reduced the fire intensity and spread, and some were effectively used to control the Chance Fire. The prescribed fires protected the timber and other wildland resources on Pelona Mountain.



*Chance Fire in 2000 caused minimal damage to the Ponderosa stand that was treated in 1993.*