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FOREST FIRES SWEEP THREE STATES

Dense clouds of smoke rise from the parched national forests of three American states - Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico. In New Mexico alone, the loss is thirty thousand acres in six days - with thousands more threatened. An army of fire fighters, twelve hundred strong, wages a hot, dirty and dangerous battle against the advancing line of flame.

Bulldozers join the fight - but in some areas the wind-fanned blaze jumps barricades and sweeps onwards. Aided by months of drought, the Southwest's worst forest fires in years take a terrible toll of a precious national resource.