



Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit



For Immediate Release
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BLM to continue with Deer Valley prescribed burn

Maybell, Colo. – Fire managers from the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit are planning a 150 acre prescribed burn on Douglas Mountain approximately two miles southwest of Greystone and 34 miles west of Maybell in Moffat County. The Deer Valley project is located on Bureau of Land Management and may include a small portion of private land. Fire personnel will begin work tomorrow, Thursday, October 22 unless prevented by weather conditions. They hope to complete the burn in one day, it could however take several days. This portion of the project will be a continuation of the 325 acres burned in the same area last year.

Fire personal and vehicles will be working off the north side of Moffat County Road 116 and fire vehicles will be parked along the road. Smoke will be visible in Greystone and from Highway 318.

Objectives of the Deer Valley Prescribed Fire are to reduce hazardous fuels in the form of thick sagebrush, pinyon/juniper encroachment and dead material accumulated in the ponderosa pine. This will lessen the chance of intense wildland fires that could threaten residences on Douglas Mountain and in Greystone. It will also improve overall forest health and promote the growth of grasses and forbs for wildlife by removing sagebrush. The Deer Valley project consists of 1,500 total acres and is expected to continue over the next couple years.

Weather and fuel-moisture conditions will be closely monitored, and the burn will only be initiated if conditions are ideal for safe and effective fires. Each prescribed burn conducted by the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit has a detailed fire plan developed in advance, along with appropriate smoke permits obtained from state agencies. Prescribed fires are one of many tools public land managers use to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires while improving wildlife habitat and overall forest and range health.

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