



Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit



For immediate release
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Bears Ears Prescribed Fire Planned This Week

Maybell, Colo. – Fire managers from the Northwest Colorado Interagency Fire Management Unit are planning to conduct a 400-acre prescribed burn approximately 31 miles northwest of Maybell north of state Highway 318 beginning Friday.

Smoke will be visible to people traveling on state Highway 318. The project and may take several days to complete.

The Bears Ears Prescribed Fire will be on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Fire managers are conducting the burn to reduce hazardous fuels such as thick sagebrush and pinyon/juniper trees and to improve ecosystem diversity. This will reduce the chance of large, intense wildland fires, benefit wildlife habitat, and enhance livestock grazing.

Fire managers are planning to ignite the fire with hand crews Friday and Saturday. Weather and fuel-moisture conditions will be closely monitored, and the burn will only be initiated if conditions are within pre-determined parameters.

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 land health.

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