



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Cañon City District Office
Royal Gorge Resource Area



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Pike & San Isabel National Forests
Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands

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US FOREST SERVICE and BLM TO CONDUCT FALL PRESCRIBED BURN

CANON CITY...Weather permitting, federal land management agencies are hoping to conduct a prescribed burn, in the Black Mountain/Devil's Hole area beginning in early October, 2007.

The Black Mountain prescribed burn area is located 10 miles north of Gardner, CO. During this phase of burning, approximately 450 acres are targeted for treatment initially with another 720 acres to follow. Fuels include ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, Piñon and juniper, scattered patches of gambel oak brush and grasses. This project will aid in reducing accumulated natural fuels and fire hazard on National Forest System lands in the area and would add to the existing mosaic of treated and untreated locations in this area.

The prescribed burn could occur as early as October 2, however depending on the weather it could be anytime over the following weeks or until the weather becomes too wet to burn. If weather permits, ignition will begin about 9 a.m. and should end by 5 p.m. on the day of the project. Smoke from the prescribed burn will be visible from the Centennial Ranches, the Wet Mountain Valley, Gardner, Walsenburg, and from Highway 96, but is not likely to impact local communities in the surrounding area. Most of the smoke will lift and dissipate during the warmest part of the day; however smoke may linger over the area and in Wylie Gulch in the evening hours.

This project is an on-going effort to reduce hazardous fuels buildup in the area. The objectives of the project are to: Reduce the risk of high intensity wildfires to surrounding property by reducing hazardous fuel accumulations and ladder fuels that contribute to catastrophic crown fires. Other benefits of the project are improved forest health and fire resiliency, and more desirable forage for wildlife and domestic livestock and to create various stages of plant succession critical for a healthy ecosystem.

Fires have played an important role in shaping vegetation composition and structure in this area and have long been a part of the natural environment of people. Decades of fire suppression have created abundant fuels and interrupted the frequency and intensity of naturally occurring fires. Prescribed burns are designed to accomplish specific resource management objectives, especially hazardous fuels reduction but also provide a means for re-introducing fire into these fire adapted ecosystems.

Anyone wanting more information on the planned prescribed burns can call Dave Toelle (719) 269-8508 at the U.S. Forest Service, San Carlos Ranger District and BLM, Royal Gorge Field Office in Canon City.

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