



United States Department of the Interior  
Front Range Center

Bureau of Land Management  
<http://www.co.blm.gov>

3170 E Main Street  
Canon City, CO 81212

---

## **BLM News Release**

**For Immediate Release**

**John Dow**

**BLM 719-269-8559**

**March 11, 2008**

---

### **BLM TO CONDUCT SPRING PRESCRIBED BURN**

CANON CITY...Weather permitting, federal land management agencies are hoping to conduct a prescribed burn, in the Deer Haven and Rice Gulch areas beginning this week.

The Deer Haven/Rice Gulch prescribed burn areas are about 15 miles northwest of Canon City and south of the High Park Road. During this phase of burning, approximately 200 acres are targeted for treatment. Fuels include ponderosa pine, gambel oak, junipers, mountain shrub and pinion. These projects will aid in reducing accumulated natural fuels and fire hazard on both BLM and State lands in the area, would create a mosaic of treated and untreated areas, and reduce conifer encroachment into many of the grass parks.

Depending on the weather these burns can be done anytime over the next two weeks. If weather permits, ignition will begin about 9 a.m. and should end by 3 p.m. on the days of the projects. Smoke from the prescribed burns will be visible and could temporarily 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 drainages as temperatures drop during the evening.

Burn Plans have been completed for the areas and prescribe the optimum conditions for safe burning. The Deer Haven area has recently had enough moisture and cooler temperatures that fuel moisture sampling shows conditions are good for a prescribed burn.

This project would treat public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management-Royal Gorge Field Office. The objectives of the project are to: reduce the risk of high intensity wildfires to surrounding property, reduce hazardous fuel accumulations and ladder fuels that contribute to catastrophic crown fires, improve forage for wildlife and domestic livestock and to create various stages of plant succession critical for healthy ecosystem.

Fires have played an important role in shaping vegetation in the Rocky Mountain West and have long been a part of the natural environment of people. Decades of fire suppression have interrupted the frequency and intensity of naturally occurring fires. Prescribed burns are designed to accomplish specific management objectives and also provide a means for re-introducing fire into the ecosystem.

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.

-----blm-----