



# NEWS RELEASE



**USDA Forest Service**  
**Rocky Mountain Region**  
Pike & San Isabel National Forests  
Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands  
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Pueblo, CO 81008  
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**USDI Bureau of Land Management**  
Royal Gorge Field Office  
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<http://www.co.blm.gov/ccdo/canon.htm>

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BLM and USFS PLAN SPRING PRESCRIBED BURNS FOR SOUTHERN COLORADO**

**CANON CITY, Colo.** – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Royal Gorge Field Office and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Pike and San Isabel National Forests plans to treat approximately 855 acres this spring using prescribed fire in southern Colorado. The prescribed burns will begin as soon as favorable weather and fuel conditions permit and may continue into April.

The main objective of the prescribed fires is to reduce the amount of fuels on the ground in an effort to minimize the intensity of unplanned fire. By reducing dense vegetation and accumulated fuels, these burns reduce the risk to firefighter and public safety, private property, and natural resource, and will also improve wildlife habitat and overall forest health.

Areas scheduled for treatment:

- **Black Mountain:** 350-750 acres on the San Carlos Ranger District, San Isabel National Forest. Fuels are primarily ponderosa pine, grasses, and pinion-juniper. The project area is located seven miles north of Gardner, Colorado in Huerfano County.
- **Arkansas Mountain:** 105 acres on BLM lands in ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and light slash. This project area is located about one mile south of Spruce Basin Subdivision and approximately five miles northwest of Cotopaxi, Colorado in Fremont County.

Weather and fuel conditions will be closely monitored, and burns will only be initiated if on-site conditions are within established parameters for safe and effective prescribed fires. Each prescribed burn involves a detailed prescribed fire burn plan developed in advance, along with appropriate smoke permits obtained from state agencies.

In many cases, the prescribed burning is a final step in completing hazardous fuels reduction projects under the National Fire Plan. Some projects are accomplished over several years utilizing a combination of “tools” that include mechanical or hand thinning treatment methods and multiple prescribed fires to reduce “down” wood, small trees, and eliminate lower limbs of larger trees. The BLM and USFS have worked cooperatively over the years to achieve a common goal to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires while improving wildlife habitat and forest.

For more information contact BLM Fuels Specialist Ty Webb at 719-269-8560 or USFS Fuels Specialist Dennis Page at 719-269-8584.

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