



# NEWS RELEASE



## **USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region**

**Pike & San Isabel National Forests,  
Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands**

**Forest Supervisors Office**

**2480 Kachina Dr.**

**Pueblo, CO 81008**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/>

## **USDI Bureau of Land Management**

### **Royal Gorge Field Office**

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**Canon City, CO 81212**

<http://www.co.blm.gov/ccdo/canon.htm>

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## **Fall Prescribed Fires Begin in Southern Colorado**

**CANON CITY, Colo., October 9, 2007**...Crews from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Royal Gorge Field Office and the USDA-Forest Service, Pike and San Isabel National Forests will be conducting several prescribed burns in southern Colorado throughout the coming weeks. Burning will be conducted into the fall as long as weather permits.

The main objective of these prescribed fires is to reduce fire behavior such that unplanned fires in these areas would burn at a lower intensity by reducing dense vegetation and accumulated fuels. These burns will also improve wildlife habitat and overall forest health.

In many cases, the prescribed burning is a final step in completing hazardous fuels reduction projects under the National Fire Plan. Some of these projects were started just recently and some 3 to 5 years ago.

Previously implemented treatments incorporating mechanical or hand thinning, tree removal, and multiple prescribed fires that reduce "down" wood, small trees, and remove the lower limbs of larger trees, will reduce the probability of crown fires in the treated areas.

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 fires.

Each prescribed burn conducted by the agencies has a detailed prescribed fire burn 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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## Fall Prescribed Burns Begin

The areas slated for treatment are:

**Black Mountain:** 450 acres on the San Isabel National Forest. Fuels are primarily ponderosa pine, grasses, and pinion and juniper fuels in Huerfano County. The project area is located 6 miles north of **Gardner**;

**Lakemoor West:** 220 acres on BLM public lands, ponderosa pine, juniper thinning slash and grasses in Teller County. The project area is located 40 miles northeast of Canon City and 17 miles south of **Florissant**, Colorado;

**Arkansas Mountain:** 105 acres on BLM public lands in ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir with light slash in Fremont County. This project area is located about 1 mile south of **Spruce Basin Subdivision** and approximately 45 miles west of **Canon City** and 17 miles east of **Howard**, Colorado;

**Deer Haven:** 100 Acres on BLM and Colorado State Land Board lands in ponderosa pine and oak brush in Fremont County. This project is located approximately 20 miles northwest of **Canon City** south of the **High Park Ranch**.

**Box Creek:** 110 acres of Sagebrush and Grass on BLM and San Isabel National Forest lands in Lake County approximately 6 miles south of **Leadville**, Colorado;

Other projects include approximately 200 acres of pile burning that will be done later in fall after some snowfall. Burns are in the Arkansas Mountain, and Turkey Gulch areas. These piles are all located in **Fremont County** on BLM lands and at Black Mountain on USFS lands in **Huerfano County**.

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