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# BLM News Release

For Immediate Release

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## BLM Monitoring Wildland Fire in Chaffee County

CANON CITY...The Bureau of Land Management, Royal Gorge Field Office is evaluating a small fire burning in the Brown's Canyon Wilderness Study Area for its potential to benefit natural resources. The "Spring Fire" is in Chaffee County approximately four miles southeast of Centerville and has been visible along State Highway 285 since Saturday.

The fire, located in a remote area on the east side of Browns Canyon was ignited by lightning last Friday, and has continued to smolder. The fire is not threatening private lands or human development, and is estimated to be about a tenth acre in size. In cooperation with the USDA San Isabel National Forest, Salida Ranger District, the fire is being allowed to burn and play its natural role in this ecosystem.

Fire management personnel from the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will continue to monitor the fire on a daily basis. Due to the surrounding terrain and the fire's remote location, monitoring its progress has been determined to be an appropriate management response for safety reasons. According to Roy Masinton, Field Manager for the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office in Canon City, "Firefighter and public safety are our highest priorities when managing an incident of this nature. The risk to firefighters is being weighed against the need and expense of suppression, and in this instance, safety issues are the primary concern." The fire has been evaluated as having a low potential for spread.

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