



NEWS RELEASE



USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region
Pike & San Isabel National Forests
Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands
Forest Supervisors Office
2840 Kachina Dr.
Pueblo, CO 81008
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/>

USDI Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main St.
Cañon City, CO 81212
<http://www.co.blm.gov/ccdo/canon.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERAGENCY FALL PRESCRIBED BURN PROGRAM ABOUT TO BEGIN IN SOUTHERN COLORADO

CAÑON CITY, Colo., Mon. August 24, 2009 – Fire crews from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Royal Gorge Field Office and the U.S. Forest Service Pike and San Isabel National Forests will join forces as they carry out their prescribed burning program this fall in southern Colorado. Planned ignitions will begin when weather and fuel conditions become optimal for achieving management objectives while keeping smoke impacts to a minimum to surrounding communities. Weather and fuel conditions will be closely monitored and the prescribed burning program will continue through the fall season as long as conditions allow.

Prescribed fire combined with mechanical and/or hand thinning treatments are effective land management tools used to reduce the accumulation of hazardous fuels and old and dense vegetation. Minimizing hazardous fuels reduces fire intensity and the risk of catastrophic wildland fires, which in turn minimizes the risk to firefighter and public safety. It also improves wildlife habitat and promotes and maintains healthier ecosystems.

Each prescribed burn has a detailed prescribed fire burn plan developed in advance, along with appropriate smoke permits obtained from state agencies.

Areas slated for treatment are:

- **Black Mountain:** 1,000 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 six

miles north of Gardner, Colorado.

- **Lakemoor West:** 220 acres on BLM lands, ponderosa pine, thinning slash and grasses in Teller County. The project area is located 40 miles northeast of Cañon City and 17 miles south of Florissant, Colorado.
- **Arkansas Mountain:** 100 acres on BLM lands in ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir with light slash in Fremont County. This project area is located about one mile south of Spruce Basin Subdivision and approximately 45 miles west of Cañon City and 17 miles east of Howard, Colorado.
- **Rice Gulch:** 250 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 Cañon City, south of the High Park Ranch.

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