



NEWS RELEASE

SERVICE FIRST



USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region
Pike & San Isabel National Forests and
Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands
San Carlos Ranger District
3028 E. Main St.
Cañon City, CO 81212
<http://fs.usda.gov/psicc/sanc>

U.S. Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main St.
Cañon City, CO 81212
<http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo.html>

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Interagency spring prescribed burn program about to begin in southern Colorado

CAÑON CITY, Colo. – Fire crews from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Royal Gorge Field Office and the San Carlos Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service (FS) Pike and San Isabel National Forests will join forces as they carry out their prescribed burning program this spring 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 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 plan developed in advance, along with appropriate smoke permits obtained from state agencies.

Areas slated for treatment are:

- **Black Mountain (600 acres – FS System lands):** Fuels are primarily ponderosa pine, pinion and juniper, and grasses. The project area is located six miles north of Gardner in Huerfano County.

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- **Lakemoor West (132 acres – BLM lands):** Fuels include ponderosa pine, grasses and debris (slash) from hand thinning treatments. The project area is located 40 miles northeast of Cañon City and 17 miles south of Florissant in Teller County.
- **Rice Gulch (400 acres – BLM lands):** Fuels include ponderosa pine, oak brush, and grasses. The project area is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Cañon City in Fremont County.
- **Booger Red (350 acres – BLM lands):** Fuels include ponderosa pine, oak brush, grasses and slash from mechanical treatments. The project area is located approximately 21 miles north of Cañon City in Teller and Fremont counties.
- **Sand Gulch (175 acres – BLM lands):** Fuels include ponderosa pine, grasses, mountain shrubs, and slash from mechanical treatments. The project area is located five miles northeast of Howard in Fremont County.

For more information contact Tyler Webb, BLM Fire Management Specialist, 719-269-8560 or Dennis Page, FS Fire Management Specialist, 719-269-8584.

To learn more about the Service First interagency partnership in Colorado go to:
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Information/service_first.html.

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