



UPPER COLORADO RIVER INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT

NPS Colorado National Monument
BLM Grand Junction and Glenwood Springs
USFS White River and Grand Mesa National Forests

NEWS RELEASE

March 16, 2009

Contact: David Boyd, Public Information Officer, (970) 947-2832
Patrick Thrasher, USFS Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 945-3237

Spring prescribed burns planned

Federal fire officials from the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit are planning several prescribed burns this spring in Garfield, Mesa and Pitkin counties to reduce hazardous fuels and improve wildlife habitat.

The burns will be conducted when weather, moisture, and fuel conditions allow between late March and the end of May. The burns are primarily in oak brush and pinyon-juniper forests.

The 750-acre **Coulter Mesa** prescribed fire is planned on White River National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands in Garfield County 13 miles northeast of Rifle. For more information, call Ody Anderson, 970 947-2810.

Two prescribed fires are planned in Mesa County this spring. The 500-acre **Battlements** prescribed fire is planned on BLM lands five mile northeast of Collbran. The 350-acre **Black Ridge** prescribed fire is planned on BLM lands 13 miles west of Grand Junction in the Glade Park area. For more information on these fires, contact Jeff Phillips 970 244-3040.

Fire mangers are planning two prescribed fires this spring in Pitkin County. The 140-acre **Prince Creek** prescribed fire is planned on BLM lands four miles south of Carbondale. The burn will complete an oak-brush-thinning project started last fall to help protect private lands and homes from wildfire. The 100-acre **East Sopris** prescribed fire is planned on BLM lands two miles south of Basalt as part of a larger fuels treatment-habitat improvement project on Light Hill. For additional information on these fires, call Ody Anderson, (970) 947-2810.

Weather conditions will be monitored and burns will be implemented when conditions are suitable for safe and effective prescribed burns and good smoke dispersal. All

prescribed fires in the Upper Colorado River are conducted under an approved burn plan with smoke permits from the State of Colorado.

The Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit is composed of the BLM Glenwood Springs and Grand Junction Field Offices; Grand Valley Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests; the White River National Forest; and the Colorado National Monument. It encompasses more than 4.5 million acres oriented along the Interstate 70 corridor from the Continental Divide on the east to the Utah state line on the west.