



For Immediate Release  
Tuesday, September 15, 2008

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## **BLACKTAIL PRESCRIBED BURN PUBLIC MEETING**

Steamboat Springs – The Little Snake Field Office Bureau of Land Management and Colorado Division of Wildlife will host a public meeting Tuesday, September 23, 7:00 p.m. at the Stagecoach Fire Station. The Blacktail prescribed fire project will be the topic of discussion. BLM and CDOW representatives will present details on the objectives and technical aspects of the project.

The Blacktail prescribed burn is a cooperative effort between the BLM and the CDOW. The objectives of the burn include reducing the risk of large wildland fire by reducing the fuel load (amount of vegetation), enhancing forage production, and improving critical winter range and habitat. Improving browse should lessen the pressure on nearby private land owners from foraging wildlife. The desired outcome is to achieve a mosaic effect of burned and unburned areas of vegetation.

The project site is 915 acres on the southwest side of Blacktail Mountain. Vegetation is primarily mountain shrub (oakbrush, serviceberry and snowberry) and sagebrush with a native grass understory. The quality of existing habitat has been deteriorating for years due to declining shrub species.

The Blacktail project is scheduled for implementation in the spring of 2009. Spring is the preferred season due to snow or moist conditions existing on northerly aspects that will prevent fire spreading beyond the project area. Depending upon the weather and fire behavior, this project may be completed in phases.

Please contact Gail Martinez, Wildlife Biologist, at 970-826-5000, for more information.

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