



Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit



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Deer Valley Prescribed Fire Planned This Week

Maybell, Colo. – Fire managers from the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit are planning a 300 acre prescribed burn off County Road 116 approximately two miles southwest of Greystone and 34 miles west of Maybell in Moffat County. The project is located on Bureau of Land Management public land and may take several days to complete.

Objectives of the Deer Valley Prescribed Fire are to reduce hazardous fuels in the form of thick sagebrush, pinyon/juniper encroachment and dead material accumulated in the ponderosa pine. This will reduce the chance of intense wildland fires that could threaten residences on Douglas Mountain and in Greystone. It will also improve overall forest health and promote the growth of grasses and forbs for wildlife by removing sagebrush. The Deer Valley project consists of 1,500 total acres and will be ongoing over the next couple years. A 150 acre portion of the project area may be burned later this spring or fall.

Fire managers are planning to ignite the fire with hand crews sometime later this week. Weather and fuel-moisture conditions will be closely monitored, and the burn will only be initiated if conditions are ideal for safe and effective fires.

Each prescribed burn conducted by the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit has a detailed fire plan developed in advance, along with appropriate smoke permits obtained from state agencies. Prescribed fires are one of many tools public land managers use to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires while improving wildlife habitat and overall land health.

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