



UPPER COLORADO RIVER
FIRE AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT UNIT
INTERAGENCY
BLM - NORTHWEST DISTRICT
BLM - SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
USFS - WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST



NEWS RELEASE

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Firefighters planning prescribed fires this fall in Eagle, Garfield, Rio Blanco counties

RIFLE, Colo. — Federal fire officials from the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire and Aviation Management Unit Central Zone are hoping conditions will be ideal in the next several weeks to complete several prescribed fires in Eagle, Garfield and Rio Blanco counties.

Land managers and fire officials are planning the following prescribed fires to reduce dense vegetation and other fuels, which should lower the risk of large wildfires and stimulate new vegetation growth that benefits wildlife:

- The 1,200-acre **Roan Prescribed Fire** on Bureau of Land Management lands 11 miles northwest of Rifle on the Roan Plateau in Garfield County
- The 300-acre **Sheep Gulch Prescribed Fire** on BLM lands four miles northwest of Gypsum in Eagle County
- The 400-acre **Cottonwood Creek Prescribed Fire** on BLM lands three miles northwest of Eagle in Eagle County
- The 1,200-acre **Cattle Creek Prescribed Fire** on the U.S. Forest Service Aspen/Sopris Ranger District nine miles north of El Jebel in Eagle County
- The **Miller Creek Prescribed Fire** on the USFS Blanco Ranger District 15 miles southeast of Meeker in Rio Blanco County

Fire managers have developed a detailed prescribed fire plan and obtained smoke permits from the State of Colorado for each of the planned burns. Residents and other people in the area may observe smoke during these burns.

“We will only ignite these prescribed fires if conditions are ideal for a safe, effective burn, as well as for good smoke dispersal away from area communities,” said UCR Fuels Management Specialist Chad Sewell. “We evaluate weather, moisture and fuel conditions before deciding whether to proceed, and human safety is always our top priority.”

For more information on the BLM prescribed fires, contact Chad Sewell, (970) 216-8999. For more information on the Forest Service prescribed fires, contact Jim Genung (970) 404-3150.

Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information, see <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.

The Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire and Aviation Management Unit (UCR) includes Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service firefighting resources that cover 5.8 million acres along the Interstate 70, Colorado River and Roaring Fork River corridors from the Continental Divide to the Utah state line. The UCR includes the White River National Forest and the BLM's Colorado River Valley and Grand Junction field offices. The UCR cooperates with other federal and state agencies, local communities, and fire departments on a wide range of activities including fuels treatments, fire prevention, and suppression.

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