



# Montrose Interagency

## ***Fire Management***

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Bureau of Land Management • Colorado State Forest Service • National Park Service • US Forest Service

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Prescribed Burn Planned for Area**

**Montrose, CO (October 1, 2008)** – The Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit (MIFMU) has a prescribed burn planned to occur on Wednesday October 1 through Friday October 3, weather and burning conditions pending. The Columbine Prescribed Burn will occur on approximately 700 acres of national forest system lands in Tabeguache Basin, on the west side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. More specifically, the burn is planned to occur 1-2 miles to the southwest of Columbine Pass.

Vegetation in the area is comprised of dense oakbrush with scattered aspen stands. Plans for Wednesday include establishing “black line” around the burn area (burning around hand and/or dozer lines that have been created to expand the width of the line and eliminate fuels adjacent to the fireline). Depending on the weather and fuel conditions, actually burning is planned for Thursday or Friday and ignition is planned to occur by helicopter after the control lines are established.

“The specific objectives of the burn are to improve elk habitat in the area by removing 60-70% of the oakbrush from the area,” stated Dan Huisjen, Acting Fire Management Officer for MIFMU. “Removing these fuels will allow grasses and forbs to regenerate and to create more diverse habitat and browse for wildlife in the oakbrush stands in the area.” The burn is being funded through the Habitat Partnership Program and the Forest Service hazardous fuels treatment program.

[http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2mtc/](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2mtc/)

Smoke from this burn will be visible on the plateau for 2-3 days during the main ignition, and smoke from the prescribed burn may dissipate as far east as the Grand Mesa, in the North Fork Valley and to the West Elks.

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