

News Release



USDA Forest Service
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416-2485

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact(s): Dan Huisjen, Montrose Interagency Fire Center, 970.240.5339
Lee Ann Loupe, Public Affairs Specialist, 970.596.0246

PRESCRIBED BURNING FOR WILDLIFE

Delta, CO., (September 10, 2007) – A big thank-you is extended from the Forest Service to the public, the community of Crawford, the people visiting for the 9th Annual Render the Rock outing, hunters, and especially the Duffy Family for their patience, smoke tolerance and assistance this past weekend.

On Saturday, weather conditions allowed Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management fire crews to complete approximately 1000 acres of prescribed burning. Designed to provide wildland fire protection around urban interface areas, elk/deer winter range enhancement and hopefully bighorn sheep habitat for the future, the burning was a resounding success! The burning was completed within a few short hours-although the burn has taken two years to get the right weather and fuels conditions to allow the activities to proceed.

“This was a great burn and one that feels really good to have accomplished in a safe, and cost-effective manner,” stated Levi Broyles, Paonia District Ranger. “We hope that the burning didn’t inconvenience the Community and the folks involved in the Render the Rock. I don’t think that the view of Needlerock was affected; however, if the haze did cause any inconvenience maybe the stunning sunset Saturday night made up for it.”

-MORE-

Contributing to the red-sky sunset were the wildland fires that burned in Red Canyon and on the Houser Road on the Uncompahgre Plateau, as well as dust generated by winds from the recent cold front moving through.

The Forest Service has other plans to complete prescribed burns (weather and fuel conditions permitting) later this month. Prescribed burns are planned for the Columbine area, in the Dave Wood area and at Coal Canyon in the next few weeks. Information and announcements on the planned prescribed burns can be found on the Montrose Interagency Fire Center Website at: gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2mtc/Nav/Current_Incidents.html

###