



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Pike & San Isabel National Forests,
Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands
South Park Ranger District
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News Release

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Pike National Forest Plans Prescribed Burning Near Lake George

FAIRPLAY, Colo., September 13, 2016 –The Pike National Forest-South Park District is preparing for prescribed burning in Park County. This may include up to 1200 acres of broadcast burning, which involves the ignition of surface fuels within prepared units. The projects are south of Lake George between Blue Mountain and Wilson Lakes, and southwest of Lake George in O'Brien Gulch.

Burning may begin as soon as late September and last through the fall. Ignition will take place when weather and fuel conditions are such that the fire behavior will be within the burn plan limitations and substantial smoke impacts are unlikely to surrounding communities. If burning does take place, it may continue from one to several days. Expect smoke to be visible from Highway 24 and other areas during actual burning days. Smoke may linger in the air for several days after ignition is completed.

Vegetation types are predominantly ponderosa pine, grass, mountain shrubs and aspen stands. Surface burning of the area is designed to reduce the amount of timber needles and woody debris on the forest floor and to remove a portion of small diameter trees and low-hanging branches of larger trees. In addition, prescribed burning helps to restore the health of conifer and aspen stands by improving soil nutrients and resprouting grass and shrubs for wildlife habitat.

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