



## News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

**Contact:** *Yampa Ranger District 970-638-4160*

### **U.S. Forest Service to Implement Indian Run Prescribed Burn This Week**

**(YAMPA, Colo.) March 30, 2015** – Routt National Forest fire crews are hoping to conduct a prescribed burn this week near the Indian Run State Wildlife Area in western Routt County, south of Hayden, Colo.

The Indian Run Prescribed Burn will take place on the Yampa Ranger District and could require anywhere from one to three days to complete operations. Crews will primarily use drip torches to carry out the burning.

If accomplished, it would be the third consecutive year that prescribed burning is conducted in the area.

Suitable weather and fuel moisture will determine the exact date of this burn. Burning will not take place unless daily smoke dispersal forecasts are within permitted parameters and other weather-related conditions are favorable. As is often the case, fire managers will be faced with a small window of time between snowmelt and vegetation green-up during which to implement the spring burn.

The project area encompasses 800 acres, which is expected to burn in a mosaic pattern, desired to diversify plant species, age and composition.

A hazardous fuels and wildlife habitat enhancement project, the Indian Run Prescribed Burn is meant to reduce fuel loading and minimize damage by wintering big-game herds to adjacent private, agricultural lands. The burn will increase forage quality for deer and elk wintering on National Forest lands, thus keeping more animals on Forest and decreasing the potential for conflict.

Burn units are composed of mountain shrubs, grass and some aspen. To reduce adverse fire activity, a key burn plan requirement is that the units be mostly surrounded by snow and/or non-burnable breaks in the topography. U.S. Forest Service fire crews will monitor the burn area until all fires are completely out.

Prescribed burns are used by the Forest Service to benefit wildlife and vegetation. A versatile management tool, the burns can reinvigorate rangeland, mimic historically natural fire disturbances, reduce hazardous fuels buildup, and improve habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Yampa Ranger District visitors are encouraged to call the District Office at (970) 638-4516 with questions or visit the District Office at 300 Roselawn Ave. in Yampa between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Information may also be found on this website, <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>, or you can follow the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland on Twitter, [@MBRNFsTBNG](https://twitter.com/MBRNFsTBNG).

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