



News Release

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

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Big Creek Lakes Prescribed Burn to Take Place in April

(WALDEN, Colo.) April 6, 2015 – Routt National Forest fire crews are planning to conduct a prescribed burn in April, approximately twenty miles northwest of Walden, Colo. in the area of Big Creek Lakes and Twisty Park.

The Big Creek Lakes Prescribed Burn will take place on the Parks Ranger District, near the junction of Forest Roads 600 and 689, and operations should be completed in one day. Crews will use hand ignition to conduct the burning.

The burn unit area encompasses approximately 50 acres, which is expected to burn in a mosaic pattern, desired to diversify plant species, age and composition.

Prescribed burns were successfully implemented in the Big Creek Lakes area in spring of 2014.

Suitable weather and fuel moisture will determine the exact dates of this burn. Burning will not take place unless daily smoke dispersal forecasts are “fair” to “excellent” and other weather-related conditions are favorable.

Primary focus of the burn is to improve defensible space near and adjacent to private lands and recreational residences by reducing hazardous fuels. In addition to fuels and Wildland Urban Interface benefits, the project will also improve wildlife habitat by increasing forage quality for big game species.

The burn unit is composed of sagebrush, grass and some aspen. To reduce adverse fire activity, a key burn plan requirement is that the unit be mostly surrounded by snow and/or non-burnable breaks in the topography. Forest Service fire crews will monitor the burn area until the fire is 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.

For more information on this prescribed burn or other projects please call (970) 723-2700 or stop by the Parks Ranger District at 100 Main Street in Walden between 8 a.m. and 4:30 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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