



News Release

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

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Little Snake North Prescribed Burns Planned by U.S. Forest Service

(STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo.) September 29, 2015 – Routt National Forest fire crews are planning to conduct multiple prescribed burns this fall near Crane Park in northern Routt County.

In total, the Little Snake North burn unit consists of 800 acres and is 32 miles north of Steamboat Springs and five miles south of the Wyoming border. The project will be implemented in phases, with the initial burn taking place as early as Thursday, Oct. 1, on 274 acres.

Crane Park is west of Forest Road 550, north of Forest Road 503, and east of Routt County Road 129. The burns will take place on Forest Service lands managed by the Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District.

Crews will use drip torches to carry out burning operations over the course of two days. Suitable weather and fuel moisture will determine the exact date of this burn. Operations will not commence unless conditions are favorable to implement a safe and effective burn.

This particular burn unit is comprised of a mix of mountain shrubs, grasses and aspen. Smoke may be visible from some areas during burning operations, but should subside each evening. U.S. Forest Service fire crews will monitor the burned area following operations until the fire is safely out.

Smoke from all prescribed fires is closely monitored to ensure that the conditions for smoke dispersal, developed in collaboration with the Colorado Air Pollution and Control Division, are being met. These conditions reduce the likelihood of undesired smoke impacts.

Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information see:
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.

The Little Snake North burns are designed primarily to improve wildlife habitat for deer and elk, but will also provide a secondary benefit of removing hazardous fuels.

Successfully reducing fuels now will help make future potential wildland fire management efforts in this area more safe and effective.

Prescribed burning is a versatile forest management tool that can mimic historically natural fire disturbances, reduce hazardous fuels buildup, and improve habitat for a variety of wildlife.

For more information about this or other forest management projects, call the Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District at (970) 870-2299, or stop by the District Office at 925 Weiss Drive in Steamboat Springs 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 Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland on Twitter, **@MBRNFsTBNG**.

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