



News Release

BLM Southwest District Office, Colorado

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BLM to conduct prescribed pile burning on public lands managed by Tres Rios and Uncompahgre Field Offices this winter

MONTROSE, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Southwest District plans to burn slash piles on public lands managed by BLM at several locations in the Tres Rios, and Uncompahgre Field Offices as conditions allow throughout the winter. These burns are part of larger projects on the Southwest District to reduce hazardous fuels to protect wildland-urban interface communities by providing defensible space adjacent to private property and removing invasive species to restore forest health. Prescribed pile burning locations include:

- Sand Flats Piles along the Gunnison River in Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area north of Delta, CO
- Piles along Gunnison River in the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, 4 miles east of Delta, CO
- West Dolores Rim Piles, east of Hwy 141, Egnar and Dove Creek, CO
- Piles in Yellow Jacket area within Canyons of Ancients National Monument, 24 miles west of Cortez, CO
- Summit Lake Piles south of Hwy 184 between Dolores and Mancos, CO
- Dry Creek Piles 10 miles south of Naturita, CO and near Hwy 141

“These burn projects will improve forest health by reducing hazardous fuels and eliminating invasive species. Burns will be conducted once favorable amounts of snow or rain are received, and areas have acceptable smoke dispersal to minimize potential smoke impacts to local communities,” stated James Savage, BLM Supervisory Fuels Specialist.

The prescribed pile burning may take multiple days to complete once initiated and will be monitored throughout the process to ensure public safety. While smoke may be visible in the area at times, most of the smoke will lift and dissipate during the warmest parts of the day. A detailed burn plan outlines the parameters for prescribed burns.

The BLM obtained smoke permits from the Colorado State Air Pollution Control Division, which identify atmospheric conditions under which the burns can be implemented. Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information, visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.

For information on prescribed burns, visit the Southwest District BLM Prescribed Fire InciWeb page (<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7852/>) or follow us on Twitter (https://twitter.com/SWD_Fire) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/BLMMontroseFireUnit>).

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The Southwest Colorado BLM District covers the BLM Gunnison Field Office, Uncompahgre Field Office, and Tres Rios Field Office in the Colorado counties of Archuleta, Conejos, Delta, Dolores, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mesa, Mineral, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Juan, and San Miguel.

The BLM manages approximately 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.