



UPPER COLORADO RIVER

FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT

BLM-UPPER COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

USFS-WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

INTERAGENCY



NEWS RELEASE

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Firefighters to conduct prescribed burn in Palisade Watershed

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. – The Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit, in coordination with the Town of Palisade, will conduct a prescribed fire on the slope of the Grand Mesa within the Town of Palisade Watershed as conditions allow. The Bureau of Land Management plans to burn up to 410 acres above the Town of Palisade as soon as this Friday.

This effort will reduce hazardous fuels and the threat of wildfire to local communities and the watershed, while improving ecological health of the landscape. The Upper Colorado River Fire Management staff will closely monitor conditions for an opportunity to conduct the operation this week. Project location will produce smoke visible throughout Mesa County. Mitigation measures are used to minimize smoke impacts to populated areas.

“Fuel reduction projects are key to a fire resilient landscape,” stated Upper Colorado River Fire Management Officer Tommy Hayes. “During past wildfires, we have seen a decrease in fire spread and intensity directly related to fuels reduction projects.”

This prescribed fire is part of a multi-year partnership between the Town of Palisade, the Bureau of Land Management, and the City of Grand Junction to complete fuels reduction within the Town of Palisade’s watershed. The BLM also plans to work closely with the City of Grand Junction because of their adjacent watershed. Prescribed fires are accomplished when weather and fuel conditions are such that fire intensity is low compared to high intensity wildfire conditions typically seen in the summer months.

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

The Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit (UCR) includes Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service firefighting resources that cover 5.8 million acres along the Interstate 70, Colorado River and Roaring Fork River corridors from the Continental Divide to the Utah state line. The UCR includes the White River National Forest and the BLM’s Colorado River Valley and Grand Junction field offices. The UCR cooperates with other federal and state agencies, local communities, and fire departments on a wide range of activities including fuels treatments, fire prevention, and suppression.

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