



**UPPER COLORADO RIVER**  
**FIRE AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT UNIT**  
BLM - NORTHWEST DISTRICT  
BLM - SOUTHWEST DISTRICT  
USFS - WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Prescribed fire planned for Rio Blanco County, pile burning for Garfield and Pitkin**

**RIFLE, Colo.** – If conditions allow in the coming weeks, firefighters from the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire and Aviation Management Unit may ignite a prescribed fire in Rio Blanco County and begin burning slash piles in Garfield and Pitkin counties.

Firefighters are hoping for an ideal window to ignite the 400-acre Aldrich Lakes Prescribed Fire on the White River National Forest about 12 miles northeast of Meeker. The burn is designed to improve wildlife habitat and reduce fuels for wildfires.

Firefighters also hope to begin burning slash piles this month which are the result of earlier vegetation clearing and thinning to reduce the risk of unwanted wildfires and to improve wildlife habitat. Pile-burning will continue when conditions allow throughout the winter.

In Garfield County, firefighters will burn approximately 150 piles across 10 acres in the 4-Mile Creek drainage five miles south of Glenwood Springs on Bureau of Land Management and National Forest System lands. They will also burn 10 piles on Uncle Bob Mountain on National Forest System lands about 12 miles south of New Castle.

In Pitkin County, firefighters will burn a small number of piles near Chapman Campground and the campgrounds near Maroon Bells.

“We will only ignite the prescribed fire and slash piles when conditions are ideal for safe, effective burns and good smoke dispersal,” said UCR Central Zone Fuels Specialist Dan Nielsen. “Piles will only be burned when there is adequate moisture and/or snow on the ground.”

Most of the smoke from these burns will dissipate during the day; however, some smoke could remain in valley bottoms and drainages at night for short durations. For more information about these potential projects, call Dan Nielsen at 970-309-8198.

Hazardous fuels reduction projects create fuel breaks that help reduce the risk of wildfire from encroaching on communities while giving firefighters a better place from which to defend communities. You can do your part to help keep the public and firefighters safe by reducing flammable materials around your home. Visit <http://www.firewise.org/>.

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

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*The Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire and Aviation 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.*