



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



## NEWS RELEASE

April 19, 2019

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### **Prescribed fire planned tomorrow south of Silt**

**SILT, Colo.** – Fire managers with the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire and Aviation Management Unit are planning to burn up to 727 acres of Bureau of Land Management administered lands 14 miles south of Silt tomorrow.

“We expect tomorrow to offer one more day of favorable weather and vegetation conditions before the cooler weather moves in Sunday,” said Chad Sewell, BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office Fuels Specialist. “We will be closely monitoring conditions and will only begin the burn if conditions are conducive for a safe, effective burn.”

Fire managers will burn the June Creek Unit of the West Divide burn area to reduce fuel for wildfires and create fuel breaks where suppressing a larger, unwanted wildfire can be more effective. The prescribed fire will improve wildlife habitat by creating openings in the oak brush and mountain shrubs as well as stimulating new, nutritious vegetation growth.

“It can be tough to find windows for effective spring prescribed fires, but the last few days have been ideal,” Sewell said. UCR firefighters conducted burns on Forest Service lands yesterday (Thursday) in Pitkin County and today (Friday) in eastern Garfield County.

Smoke will be seen from Silt and other communities in the Colorado River and Roaring Fork valleys, particularly in the afternoon. Smoke should dissipate during the day, but may remain on the valley floors as temperatures drop. Fire managers have developed a detailed prescribed fire plan and obtained smoke permits from the State of Colorado for each planned burn. Contact Chad Sewell 970 876-9000 for additional information.

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

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