



NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland

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Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District Spring Burning

Saratoga, Wyoming (04/8/2009) – The Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District of the Medicine Bow–Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland is planning to conduct two prescribed burns this spring, in April or early May 2009. The two prescribed burns include Soldier Summit and Sandstone projects.

The majority of the Soldier Summit burn was completed last spring. This burn was originally 270 acres in size, targeted shrublands and is located east of Bottle Creek Campground. The goal of this prescribed burn is to improve potential sage grouse brood rearing habitat and to reduce fuel loading. Burning this year will be limited to a few remaining patches of shrublands within the burn area.

The Sandstone Prescribed Burn is located on the west side of the Sierra Madre Range in Big Sandstone Canyon. The project area boundary is 2,775 acres which includes 1,494 primary treatment acres. The goal of this burn is to improve shrubland age-class distribution and to reduce fuel loading. This burn is being implemented in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

The exact dates the burning will occur are dependent upon suitable weather and fuel moisture conditions. Burning will not take place unless daily smoke dispersal forecasts are good to excellent.

For more information on prescribed burning, please contact Mick Hood or Steve Best in the Saratoga office at 307-326-5258.

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