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Salida Ranger District Hosts Public Meeting Regarding Prescribed Fire Project

SALIDA, Colo., September 23, 2022 – San Isabel National Forest, Salida Ranger District will host a public meeting regarding an upcoming prescribed fire project. The meeting is open to the public and is scheduled for 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm on October 3, 2022, at the Buena Vista Community Center located at 715 E. Main St, Buena Vista, CO 81211.

The Pike-San Isabel National Forest & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands will resume with prescribed fire projects with the national direction from Chief Moore stating, “The USDA Forest Service has recently completed a 90-day nationwide operational pause and program review of protocols, decision support tools and practices related to the implementation of prescribed fire. This pause has allowed us time to identify and immediately implement program improvements to ensure firefighters have the resources, tools and support needed to safely carry out this important work. The lessons we’ve learned, driven by the best science in the world, will be implemented before we resume our prescribed fire program.”

The North Trout Creek Prescribed Fire project involves burning two units, up to 917 acres between McGee Gulch and Shields Gulch. The units are approximately four miles east of Buena Vista, CO. Temporary road closures of Forest Roads 305, 315, and 376 will be necessary to provide for public and firefighter safety. Other roads will remain open to provide alternate access options.

Fire and Fuels Staff will monitor conditions for potential fall burning. Personnel will monitor forecasted weather and fuel conditions to determine appropriate burn windows. Burning is expected to take 1-3 days and could begin in early October or into November.

This prescribed fire project’s goal is to reduce the accumulation of hazardous fuels, restore and maintain healthy and diverse forest ecosystems while allowing fire to play its natural role in the environment and maintain and enhance wildlife habitat. Prescribed fire is an important tool in reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire across the landscape and can help prevent extreme fires by reducing buildup. Prescribed fires also minimize impacts to air quality when compared to wildfires. Prescribed fire smoke may affect people’s health. For more information visit <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.

Once the prescribed fire begins, smoke may be present for several days throughout the Arkansas River Valley and Park County. Fire personnel will monitor the burn units until the fire is completely out. For more information:

- Contact the Salida Ranger District at 719-539-3591.
- Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PSICCNF/>
- Follow us on Twitter: @PSICC_NF, and use #SalidaRD #NTroutCreekRX

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