



## Forest Service News Release

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### Prescribed burns planned for the Dolores Ranger District

**DOLORES, Colo., April 21, 2022**—The San Juan National Forest's Dolores Ranger District is planning to conduct several prescribed burns potentially starting in late April. Burning operations will take place over multiple days when weather and fuel conditions are favorable and may continue throughout the summer and fall based on conditions. Both hand and aerial ignition methods may be utilized, following the weather, fuel, smoke and safety parameters stated in the prescribed fire plan. Burning operations will be conducted by qualified U.S. Forest Service personnel assisted by fire resources from cooperating agencies.

Project areas identified for burn implementation are:

- **Boggy Draw:** 1,554 acres located 3 to 10 miles northeast of Dolores, along the Dolores-Norwood Road (FSR 526) near Little Bean Canyon and Boggy Draw Road (FSR 527).
- **Haycamp Mesa:** 3,025 acres located 10 miles east of Dolores, along the Haycamp Mesa Road, Forest Service Road (FSR) 556 & 557.

Reintroduction of prescribed fire is necessary to improve and restore vegetative conditions. This effort will reduce hazardous ground fuels, lessen the risk of unplanned large-scale wildfire, help restore ponderosa pine ecosystems and improve wildlife habitat. Prescribed fire also reduces the ladder fuels that can carry fire into the canopy, killing mature trees.

During burning operations, smoke may be visible around the communities of Mancos, Dolores, Dove Creek, Cortez, and HWY 491 between Dove Creek and Pleasant View. Smoke may settle into low lying valleys and the Dolores River Canyon overnight. Smoke monitoring will be conducted, and ignitions will be scheduled to minimize smoke impacts to surrounding communities.

**Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health.** More information can be found online:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>

Maps of the prescribed burn units and additional San Juan National Forest prescribed fire program news can be found on InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6288/>. For more information, please contact Fire Management Officer Patrick Seekins, by email at [patrick.seekins@usda.gov](mailto:patrick.seekins@usda.gov) or by phone at (970) 882-6836.

For information on the San Juan National Forest, call (970) 247-4874, visit the [forest website](#), or follow us on social media ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).

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