

Kight, Bill -FS

From: Kight, Bill -FS
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 1:11 PM
To: Kight, Bill -FS
Cc: FS-r2_whiteriver
Subject: Crews to begin burning slash piles in Summit County Monday November 17



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

White River National Forest

120 Midland Ave., Suite 140, Glenwood Springs, CO 81602

Contact: Lathan Johnson, 970-640-9165 or Bill Kight, 970-948-1894

Crews to begin burning slash piles in Summit County Monday November 17

DILLON, Colo. – Smoke may be visible near Breckenridge and Keystone beginning Monday November 17 as crews from Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management begin burning slash piles generated from Forest Service fuels reduction projects. Ignitions are expected to begin around noon and will cease before sunset. Smoke and flames may be visible so we are asking the public not call 911 when they see these multiple small piles burning in this area. Precipitation, wind, temperature, fuel moisture and staffing always play a part when and whether we start burning.

Burning is scheduled to begin Monday and will continue through the winter months. Be aware that crews will monitor the burning during ignition and while the piles are burning hot. However, due to the heavy moisture on the ground there is no potential for any fire spread and crews will not continually monitor the piles. Specific locations will be identified via SCAAlert.

“When we have adequate snow on the ground like we do now with this recent storm we can start burning the slash piles,” said Forest Service Fire Management Officer Ross Wilmore. “We currently have more than 13,000 piles to burn in Summit County. We like to burn when weather conditions are favorable to lift smoke out of the area and moisture in vegetation near the slash piles is at acceptable levels to prevent any spread.”

Burning slash piles is necessary to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires entering private property from Forest Service system land. The slash piles were piled to cure so they could be effectively burned later.

Smoke from the general area may be seen for short periods throughout the day. Some drift smoke could affect homeowners for a short period of time. Anyone with health conditions that may be affected by short durations of smoke should contact Lathan Johnson at 970-640-9165 or Bill Kight at 970-948-1894.

The piles will be burned under the authority of an approved burn plan and smoke permit.

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