



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



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### **Pile burning to begin in Baylor Park area and near Crooked Creek Pass**

**GLENWOOD SPRINGS** –Firefighters with the Upper Colorado Interagency Fire Management Unit (UCR) plan to burn slash piles on the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District in coming weeks. Burning will occur in the Baylor Park area up the Four Mile Road and at the Catawampus Timber Sale area near Crooked Creek Pass. Slash piles have been created for burning in areas where other means of disposal are not feasible.

These projects were conducted for hazardous fuels reduction and to improve wildlife habitat. Hazardous fuels reduction projects create fuel breaks that help reduce the risk of wildfire, while giving firefighters a safer place from which to defend communities. “With recent wet weather, conditions are favorable for burning slash piles in our fuels treatment areas,” stated Jim Genung, Prescribed Fire and Fuels Specialist. “These piles were created by past timber removal projects. Burning them will decrease fuel-loading in the area.”

Fire professionals will monitor the pile burning daily until the piles smolder out. Ideal conditions for pile burning require adequate ventilation or light winds for smoke dispersion and good moisture on the ground with low fire danger to keep fire contained to the piles. Smoke from burning piles will likely be visible in the Baylor Park and Lime Park areas. Most of the smoke will dissipate during the day; however some nighttime smoke may remain in valley bottoms and drainages. This is only expected to be a short-term occurrence.

Crews may burn ten to hundreds of piles per day. These prescribed fires will be ignited when fuel, weather, and smoke dispersion conditions permit fire specialists to burn in an effective and safe manner. Smoke from prescribed fire may affect your health. For more information see <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.