



Rocky Mountain National Park News Release

For Immediate Release - September 26, 2005
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Rocky Mountain National Park Plans to Conduct Prescribed Fire

Fire managers at Rocky Mountain National Park plan to take advantage of predicted cooler temperatures and favorable early fall weather conditions to conduct a 45-acre prescribed burn north of Moraine Park during the month of October. This burn will help reduce hazardous fuel accumulations and assist in providing greater protection to the local community from an unplanned wildfire. Treating the area with low to moderate intensity fire will also help to restore the fire dependent ponderosa pine community.

Prescribed fires must meet certain weather-related and other environmental factors prior to ignition. An interagency team of trained fire personnel will be on scene to manage and monitor the prescribed fire. Wildland fire engines and crews will patrol the flanks to prevent embers from spreading beyond control lines. The burn unit is surrounded by previously treated areas and borders Bear Lake Road. Since this is a planned event, **please do not report this fire to park staff or local authorities.**

Smoke emissions will be managed in accordance with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regulations. Smoke impacts along roads will be monitored and park staff will be available to direct traffic if visibility is impaired. No road closures are anticipated, but the Utility Access Trail will be closed during ignition and periods of active fire spread. Some smoke may be visible in the area for several days following the burn.

For safety purposes, park visitors are urged not to stop along the roadway or enter the area while burning operations are being conducted. A viewing location will be designated with park staff available to answer questions. For more information, please contact 970-586-1299 or visit the park fire web page at www.nps.gov/romo/resources/fire.html

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