



# FACT SHEET



United States Department of Agriculture  
Web: <http://www.usda.gov>

United States Department of Interior  
Web: <http://www.doi.gov>

## Making a Difference White River National Forest - Colorado



The Old Man Burn has been an ongoing multi-year project that consists mostly of national forests land on the Eagle Ranger District of the White River National Forest about three miles south of Gypsum, Colorado. The project included 1,310 acres of forestland, 660 acres of state land and 1,662 acres of Bureau of Land Management land. The purpose of this burn was to improve grass and forage for elk and deer while reducing the accumulation of overgrown fuels and improving the overall health of the forest.

planning and execution.

The federal and state crews worked closely with the local Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation on project

Using a categorical exclusion under the Healthy Forests Initiative, fire crews from the Upper Colorado Interagency Fire Management unit successfully completed the 3,632 acres on the burn in May 2004. Crews worked long hours and were aided by excellent weather conditions on the last few days of burning.

A large portion of the acreage was ignited by helicopter from using ping-pong balls dispersed by the plastic sphere machine. This device shoots out ping pong balls, which have a volatile mixture that ignites upon contact with the ground. This method was chosen because it is a very efficient way to burn a large tract of land in a short time period.

**Contact:** Kristi Ponozzo, Public Affairs Specialist, White River National Forest (970) 945-3249



For more information on the Healthy Forests Restoration Act and the Healthy Forests Initiative, visit [www.healthyforests.gov](http://www.healthyforests.gov)