

National Fire Plan

Smoke Management and Prescribed Fire



Because of the ongoing communications and interagency cooperation, the USDA Forest Service safely completed the 8,000-acre Polhemus National Fire Plan Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project on the Pike National Forest in Decker, Colo. and eliminated thousands of acres of hazardous fuels. The smoke from the prescribed fire dissipated as predicted and the Pike National Forest completed approximately 8,000 acres of hazardous fuels treatment as it minimized the threat of wildland fire to the community.



Agency Officials from USDA Forest Service (USFS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the State Air Pollution Control Division (SAPCD) were concerned about air quality issues raised by Denver-area residents.

In response, meteorologists from the SAPCD and Rocky Mountain Coordination Center (RMACC) determined that weather patterns and conditions would be ideal on Saturday, October 20 to complete the burn.

Preparations were made to minimize smoke conditions and air quality concerns.

Air quality measuring equipment was placed in strategic locations in the south Denver area and signs were placed along Douglas County Highway and the north and southbound lanes of highway C-470 to warn the public of the prescribed fire and smoke conditions. A 24-hour telephone information recording and number was given to the media and located on a website dedicated for the burn <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/spl/information.htm>. Fire Information Officers were assigned to assist media the day of the burn.

To date, under the National Fire Plan hazardous fuels have been treated on more than 1.3 million acres of land by prescribed fire, chemical applications, or mechanical thinning.

For additional information on the National Fire Plan, visit www.fireplan.gov