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NEWS

For Immediate Release

September 21, 2011

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Prescribed Fire Planned in Southern Jefferson County

GOLDEN, Colo. — The Golden District of the Colorado State Forest Service is planning to conduct prescribed burns this fall on Denver Water land near Foxton in Jefferson County. Starting as early as this week, the Lower North Fork Prescribed Burn, located north of Foxton Road and County Road 96, will be burned in three units during suitable weather and fuel conditions.

The purpose of the Lower North Fork Prescribed Burn is to reduce the amount of woody fuel left on the ground from past forest restoration activities. Low-intensity prescribed fire should reduce hazardous fuels and improve grass production in the ponderosa pine-dominated forest.

Wildland fire plays an important role in the health of ponderosa pine forests. Land-management agencies and land stewards commonly utilize prescribed fire under controlled conditions to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildland fire, create healthier forests and maintain wildlife habitat.

Local fire cooperators and CSFS engine crews will be assisting with the prescribed burn. As with all prescribed burning activities conducted by the CSFS, ignition will only occur if weather and fuel conditions are within the burning prescription; minimal smoke impacts are expected for surrounding communities; and the burn meets all conditions for a burn permit approved by the Colorado State Air Pollution Control Division.

Residents in the surrounding areas of Dome Rock, Longview, South Platte and Buffalo Creek can expect to see and smell smoke in the vicinity when burning occurs. Wind direction, wind speed, air temperature and humidity all play an important role in fire behavior and smoke dispersal, so conditions will be constantly monitored during burning operations. Smoke rises during the day and may settle into low-lying areas and drainages at night, so drivers are urged to use extra caution while in the vicinity of the burn area.

For additional information about the prescribed burn, please call Ryan Lockwood, CSFS public and media relations coordinator, at 970-491-8970.

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