DOLORES, Colo., Date – August 20, 2019

Fire personnel completed the first full day of burning for the Fall Prescribed Burning Program on the San Juan National Forest. The Unit, Boggy Draw Unit 35, was ignited at 5:00 AM by firefighters on the ground with drip torches, followed up later in the morning and continuing through the late afternoon by aerial ignitions dropped from a helicopter. Upon completion of aerial work, personnel on the ground continued lighting with drip torches, lining the entire unit.

A plume was visible through much of the day, sending smoke eastward and affecting some communities in the short-term. Smoke will be visible for the next few days, likely settling in valleys and drainages overnight, and dissipating gradually over several days. This burning that was accomplished today will help reduce long-term smoke. No further ignitions are planned on this specific unit, as the next few days will consist of monitoring the burn. The Forest Service obtained a smoke permit by the State of Colorado, which manages air quality.

Up-to-date information on the Prescribed Burning Program can be found on InciWeb at:

https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6288/.

Smoke from wildfires and prescribed fires may affect your health. For more information, please go to:

https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health

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