



**UPPER COLORADO RIVER  
INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT**  
NPS Colorado National Monument  
BLM Grand Junction and Colorado River Valley  
USFS White River, Grand Mesa and  
Uncompahgre National Forests



## Meadow Creek Fire White River National Forest

**Fire's Role in Nature** - Fire is one of nature's most powerful means of renewal. The forests in this area evolved with fire and fire creates the conditions that many species need to flourish. It reduces dead debris to ash, adds nutrients to the soil, promotes vigorous new growth, and improves wildlife habitat.

**Restoring Forest Health** - Fire management demands a careful balance between suppressing unwanted, often human-caused wildfires, and allowing for the positive attributes of fire under favorable conditions.

Many factors, including weather, topography, and vegetation influence fire behavior and the effects that fires have. In prolonged hot and windy conditions, wildfires can cause significant damage; these fires are suppressed. Fire can promote forest health and restoration when conditions are right. Fire Managers are using fire as a tool to restore forest health, either by allowing some lightning-caused fires to burn or through prescribed application.

**Smoke Impacts** – Smoke impacts from fire management activities are inevitable. Inhaling smoke is not good for anyone and even healthy individuals may experience discomfort from smoke exposure. The most likely to experience discomfort include:

- **Elderly** - As we grow older, our lungs become less efficient.
- **Children** - Young children breathe in more air per pound of body weight and therefore are more susceptible to smoke.
- **Pregnant women** - They also breathe in more air per pound of body weight.
- **Individuals with pre-existing conditions** - Those with asthma, emphysema, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or cardiovascular disease are likely to experience more severe symptoms at lower smoke concentrations because their respiratory system is compromised.
- **Individuals with respiratory infections such as colds or the flu.**
- **Individuals with smoke allergies** - Very few people are actually allergic to smoke, but those who are should be under close medical supervision and consider developing a plan for dealing with smoke.

**Precautionary measures** - Avoid strenuous exercise or outdoor activities while smoke is present. Close windows at night to keep smoke from entering your home. Consider staying with family or friends in areas that are not impacted by smoke.

Thank you for your support of the White River National Forest's Fire Management Program!

