



Forest Service News Release

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San Juan National Forest issues trail, road closures for Boggy Draw area prescribed fire operations

DOLORES, Colo., April 8, 2024—The Boggy Draw Trailhead and portions of the Boggy Draw trail system will temporarily close to the public beginning April 9, 2024, for public and firefighter safety during prescribed fire operations.

The San Juan National Forest's Dolores Ranger District is planning to conduct several prescribed burns in the Boggy Draw area over the next few weeks. Burning operations will take place over multiple days when weather and fuel conditions are favorable. A trail and area closure will allow for the safe application of prescribed fire to the landscape to achieve ecological and long-term risk reduction to surrounding communities. Following burning operations, hazards adjacent to the trails will be assessed and the area opened back up to the public.

The closure is in effect through Nov. 30, 2024, but may be terminated earlier if prescribed fire operations and trailside hazards can be addressed sooner.

“We understand the unique relationship our communities have with the Boggy Draw trail system,” said Dolores District Ranger Nick Mustoe. “We will do everything we can to make the closure as brief as possible. We will reopen the area after operations conclude and fire related hazards to trail users are mitigated.”

Reintroduction of prescribed fire is necessary to improve and restore vegetative conditions. This effort will reduce hazardous ground fuels, lessen the risk of unplanned large-scale wildfire, help restore ponderosa pine ecosystems, and improve wildlife habitat. Prescribed fire also reduces the ladder fuels that can carry fire into the canopy, killing mature trees.

While fire managers always seek to give ample notice of prescribed fire plans to area residents, prescribed fire plans are always tentative and subject to change last minute if conditions are not met.

During burning operations, smoke may be visible around Mancos, Dolores, Dove Creek, Cortez, Towaoc, and HWY 491 between Dove Creek and Pleasant View. Smoke may settle into low lying valleys and the Dolores River Canyon overnight. Forest Service personnel will conduct smoke monitoring, and ignitions will be scheduled to minimize smoke impacts to communities. **Prescribed fire smoke may affect your**

health. More information can be found online: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>

Maps of the prescribed burn units and additional San Juan National Forest prescribed fire program news can be found on InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/cosjf-san-juan-national-forest-prescribed-fire-program>.

For more information, please contact District Ranger Nick Mustoe at Nicholas.Mustoe@usda.gov or call (928) 266-5226.

For information on the San Juan National Forest, call (970) 247-4874, visit the [forest website](#), or follow us on social media ([X](#) and [Facebook](#)).

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**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service
San Juan National Forest
Dolores Ranger District**

Boggy Draw Prescribed Fire Area, Road, and Trail Closure

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands, roads, and trails in the Dolores Ranger District, San Juan National Forest, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (the “Described Area, Roads and Trails”):

1. Going into or being upon the Described Area. 36 C.F.R. §§ 261.52(e).
2. Being on the Described Roads and Trails. 36 C.F.R. §§ 261.54(e), 261.55(a).

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.50(e)(1) or (2).
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting resource in the performance of an official duty, including conducting the Boggy Draw Prescribed Fire.

DESCRIBED AREA, ROADS, AND TRAILS

The Described Area is in Montezuma County, Colorado, north of the town of Dolores in the Boggy Draw area. It includes all NFS lands within the Described Area:

- Sections 34 and 35, Township 40 North, Range 14 West, P.M.; (units 50 and 51)
- Sections: 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, Township 39 North, Range 14 West, P.M.; (units 45,51 and 48)
- Sections: 26, 25, 35, 36, Township 38 North, Range 15, West, P.M.; (units 17 and 20)
- Section 30, Township 38 North, Range 14 West, P.M; (units 18 and 20)

The Described Roads and Trails are in and along the two Described Areas and include the following:

- 1) NFS Roads and Trails located in units 45, 48, 50 and 51 including portions of the following roads:

- NFS Road # 729; Road # 532 (Cottonwood Road); Road # 532A; Road # 532A2; Road # 249; Road # 526C; Road # 526 (Dolores Norwood Road);
 - NFS Trails # 206; # 193 and # 194 (Boggy OHV trail).
- 2) NFS Roads and Trails located in units 17,18 and 20 including portions of the following roads:
- NFS Road # 530; Road # 526 (Dolores Norwood Road); and Road # 527 (Boggy Draw Road).
 - NFS Trail # 198 (Little Bean trail) and Trail # 195 (Boggy Draw trail).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to protect public health and safety during the Boggy Draw Prescribed Fire.

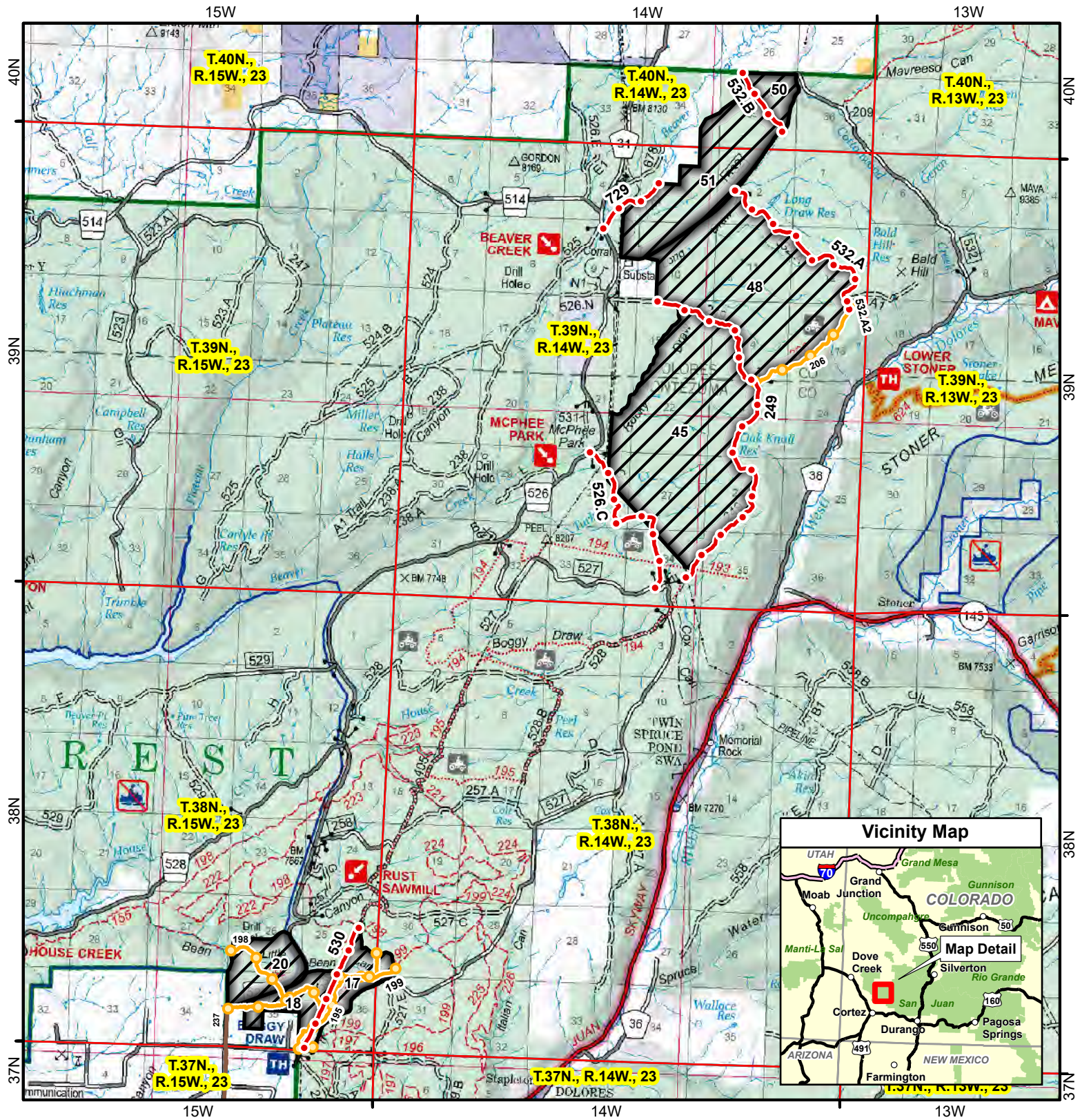
IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from April 09, 2024, at 12:00 a.m. through November 30, 2024 at 12:00 a.m., unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area, Roads, and Trails is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order and Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sanjuan/alerts-notices>
3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.
4. A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.
5. Contact the Dolores Ranger District in Dolores, Colorado, (970) 882-7296, and San Juan National Forest Supervisor's Office in Durango, Colorado (970) 247-4874, for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts on the same Described Area, Roads, and Trails.

Signed and issued on April 8, 2024

X 

Signed by: DAVID NEELY
DAVID NEELY
Forest Supervisor



- - - • Described Road
- - - ○ Described Trail
- Described Area

San Juan National Forest
Dolores Ranger District

Exhibit A

Order No. 02-13-05-24-01
Bogy Draw Prescribed Fire Area, Road, and Trail Closure

