Routt County Wildland Fire Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) Advisory & Policy Groups

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: April 30, 2014
Time: 1500 Hours

AGRICULTURAL BURNING IN ROUTT COUNTY

Routt County, Colorado – The Routt County Wildland Fire Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) Advisory and Policy Groups, consisting of the Routt County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue, North Routt, Oak Creek, West Routt and Yampa Fire Protection Districts, ask you to respect property rights, air quality, and use proper burning procedures to avoid any potential problems and/or miscommunications with your neighbors and fire protection district.

Now that spring is here, agricultural burning is becoming more and more prevalent, especially at lower elevations. Agricultural burning plays a vital role in the farming and ranching community by removing agricultural refuse and replacing nutrients in the soil.

AGRICULTURAL BURNING:

The State of Colorado defines agricultural burning as "*the open burning of cover vegetation for the purpose of preparing the soil for crop production, weed control, maintenance of water conveyance structures related to agricultural operations and any other agricultural cultivation purposes*."

Before striking a match to burn anything, please contact the Routt County Communications Center (879-1110) as a *Courtesy Open Burning Notification*. Be prepared to provide the following information: location, size of area to be burned, start/finish time, material to be burned, and property ownership. There is no fee for this courtesy notification.

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Observing the following proactive recommendations provide a safer environment for your agricultural and ditch burning.

- Know the predicted weather conditions for your burn day – erratic winds can quickly push a fire out of control in dry fuels
- Don't burn on windy days
- Notify your neighbors so they don't call in a false fire report
- Have a shovel and water with you to extinguish the fire
- Clear and remove debris down to bare soil around power poles and state right-of-way fences to keep fire from damaging these structures
- Dig a fire line where you want the fire to stop if vegetation is continuous and will carry the fire beyond your planned burn area
- **NEVER** leave a fire unattended

If you have questions, please contact your fire department:

North Routt Fire Protection District – 879-6064
Oak Creek Fire Protection District – 736-8104
West Routt Fire Protection District – 276-3796
Yampa Fire Protection District – 638-4227
Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue – 871-8216 or 879-7170

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