



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Press Release

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge
6550 Gateway Road
Commerce City, CO 80022-4327

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sarah Metzger, 303-729-2203 or 303-550-9572, sarah_metzger@fws.gov

Smoke may be visible from occasional pile burns from January through May at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

COMMERCE CITY– Beginning Monday, January 12, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will burn piles of woody debris on the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Weather permitting, the pile burns will occur periodically through May. Smoke may be visible for several miles and people in the area may smell smoke.

Safety is the number one priority, and each pile burn is carefully planned with wildland firefighters and fire professionals to ensure the safety of the surrounding community, neighbors and firefighters. Certain criteria must be met for these piles to be burned, including the ideal weather and wind conditions and tracking the air quality in the area. These criteria are outlined in a burn plan that is thoroughly reviewed before each implementation. All pile burns are conducted within the requirements of a smoke permit issued by the State of Colorado.

These piles are made from the slash left after thinning and cutting trees like the invasive Russian olive.

[More information is available on prescribed fire smoke and effects to your health.](#)

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