



Forest Service News Release

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Wildfire fuel reduction work east of Vail begins tomorrow

Work is part of the Booth Creek Fuels Reduction Project

MINTURN, Colo. (Sept. 5, 2024) – Work to reduce hazardous fuels for wildfires on National Forest System lands east of the Town of Vail will begin tomorrow.

The Town of Vail’s wildland crew will be cutting vegetation in 22 acres of shrubs and aspen around the Booth Creek Trailhead as well as four acres of timber east of Bighorn Creek. Vegetation will be selectively cut with chainsaws and piled for winter burning.

“This partnership of having Town of Vail crews work on White River National Forest lands makes sense because we have the shared goal of mitigating risk of wildfires in this area,” said Eagle-Holy Cross District Ranger Leanne Veldhuis.

The work will help lower the risk of high-intensity wildfire to private property and community infrastructure by reducing the hazardous buildup of fuels for wildfires. These treated areas also help reduce risk to firefighters by giving them a more effective area to engage a potential future wildfire.

The resulting increase in forage and open areas will also improve wildlife habitat, especially for bighorn sheep, which prefer to feed in areas with better visibility as a defense against predators such as mountain lions.

The work is part of the larger 3,605 acre Booth Creek Fuels Treatment Project approved in June 2023, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61657>.

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