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Title:

Comments: I understand the benefits of these types of controlled burns. The problem with these burns has to do with public health. I have asthma, as do many Coloradans due to years of increased air pollution across the state. Last week the WRNF conducted controlled burns north of Silt and east of Basalt. The plan was announced the day of the burn north of Silt, so we had little warning. No time to change plans, or make preparations. That day the smoke pollution in Silt was thick and caustic. I took all the precautions that I could but without success. I have been sick for the past week as a result of the smoke pollution from those controlled burns. I'm sure I'm not the only one who suffered through it. My husband doesn't have asthma but he did experience breathing problems and headaches during those burns and had to cancel his planned bike rides. Luckily he recovered more quickly than I did. My point is, there has to be some sort of acknowledgment and preparation for the public health issues caused by the poor air quality from the smoke pollution. There is no way to give the public advance warning because these burns can't be scheduled ahead of time as they depend on varying weather conditions. So I am keenly aware of the inherent difficulties we all must deal with during controlled burns. While it might be easy for the Forest Service to say that people should just suck it up for the good of all, when people are struggling to breathe and suffering from headaches and gastrointestinal distress it's time to put more thought into the whole process.