STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2013-002

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Amending Executive Order D 2012-006, Regarding Suspending Prescribed or Controlled Fire Pending Review of Protocols

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order amending Executive Order D 2012-006.

I. Background and Purpose

On March 28, 2012, pursuant to Article IV, Section 13, C.R.S. § 23-31-308, based on a finding of extreme fire danger, we issued Executive Order D 2012-006 suspending prescribed or controlled fire on state or private lands pending review of agency protocols for prescribed or controlled fire. The suspension applied to all state lands as well as state agencies that apply prescribed or controlled fire on non-state lands under contracts or agreements with other entities. At the time, Colorado was experiencing unseasonably high temperatures and dry conditions which led to a number of wildfires across the State.

Although weather conditions across Colorado have changed over the recent months, for those Colorado residents living in the wildland-urban interface, there is still concern of disastrous wildfire. Slash and burn pile operations in this area will reduce the risk of devastating wildfires, in addition to helping firefighters control such outbreak when they do occur. These fuel treatment activities not only reduce wildfire potential, but work to increase the heath of forests, by thinning forest strands and eliminating weak and diseased trees. Weaker trees that remain in the forest are prone to insect attacks and disease.

In order to best serve the residents on the wildland-urban interface and promote the health and wellbeing of our forests, slash pile burning remains the least expensive and most effective

method of removing slash. This procedure is conducted with caution and consideration, as projects are planed months and sometimes years in advance. This Division of Fire Prevention and Control will work to ensure continued safety and protection for residents on the wildland-urban interface, while promoting the health and longevity of our State's natural forests through properly regulated pile burnings.

II. Declaration and Directives

A. Executive Order D 2012-006 (State-wide suspension on prescribed or controlled fires) is hereby amended to allow for the resumption of slash pile burnings under controlled conditions.

B. Slash pile burn operations conducted by state agencies or on state lands shall follow the new guidelines and procedures established by the Division of Fire Prevention and Control to ensure that all such burns are conducted in a safe and effective manner.

C. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control shall observe the following minimum guidelines for prescribed pile fires:

1. Ignition of piles shall occur only on days when there is adequate snow cover and the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division has determined that weather conditions are appropriate for burning because good smoke dispersal can be achieved;
2. Piles shall be ignited as early in the morning as possible and operations will cease before sunset;
3. Fire suppression resources shall be on site when piles are burned; and
4. Pile burns shall occur only after proper notification of residents of potentially affected areas and local government officials.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in effect until rescinded or modified by Executive Order. In all other respects, Executive Order D 2012-006 shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado this thirtieth day of January, 2013.

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor