

NEWS RELEASE



**USDA Forest Service
Ashley National Forest
355 North Vernal Avenue
Vernal, Utah 84078
(435) 789-1181**

Contact: Louis Haynes
Title: Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (435) 781-5105
Email: ljhaynes@fs.fed.us

For: Immediate Release
Date: October 17, 2008

Prescribed Fires Continue on the Ashley National Forest

Roosevelt, Utah ... If you see smoke coming from the Ashley National Forest, don't be alarmed. The Ashley National Forest is continuing prescribed fires on the Roosevelt Duchesne District.

Prescribed fires will be taking place in the Yellowstone Drainage, in the Anthro Mountain area and along Reservation Ridge.

District Ranger J.R. Kirkaldie stated, "We are using the prescribed fires to reduce the chances of having high intensity wildfires, to create defensible fuel breaks and to restore the area to a more natural habitat condition. These actions will help reduce the chances of private and public property damage and reduce the likelihood of incurring damage to the natural and cultural resources of the area."

In the Yellowstone drainage, fire will be introduced to about 1,000 acres of sagebrush and ponderosa pine. The area is located where the road crosses the Forest boundary in the south, to Yellowstone Ranch in the north, with burn units on the east and west sides of Yellowstone Road. Depending on weather conditions, there are also burn units north of Yellowstone Ranch as far up the drainage as Swift Creek trailhead that could be treated in the coming weeks.

In the Anthro Mountain area fire will be introduced to about 500 acres in sagebrush. This project will be a continuation of work completed last year.

Across the Roosevelt Duchesne District there are slash piles that will be burned in the coming weeks. Many of these piles are in campgrounds and dispersed sites where fuels have been piled. Most of these areas have less than three to five piles each with the exception of the piles along the Reservation Ridge road, which were created during the Mill Hollow Wildland Fire Use Fire this year. In total there are approximately 1,000 piles that will be burned in the coming weeks, depending upon the weather.

Prescribed fire will continue until weather conditions no longer allow this activity.