

**Ashley National Forest  
Ashley National Forest  
Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger District  
P.O. Box 127  
Roosevelt, Utah 84066**

March 13, 2007  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Allen Huber  
(435) 781-5226

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**LEGAL NOTICE  
Roosevelt-Duchesne District Prescribed Fire Projects  
Request for Comments**

The Ashley National Forest is inviting input on several prescribed burns proposed on the Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger Districts. The burn treatments will occur over a six-year period starting in the spring of 2007 and ending in the fall of 2013. Areas where these burns will occur include: Dry Gulch, Left Fork Indian Canyon, Pole Creek, Farm Creek, Antelope Canyon, Reservation Ridge, Anthro Mountain, Lake Canyon, and \$1200 Ridge. The primary purposes of these prescribed burns include:

1. To reduce the build-up of hazardous understory fuels associated with forested areas and apply fire within the historical return interval for the ponderosa pine community.
2. To reduce the build-up of hazardous fuels associated with shrub communities and to deter the encroachment of conifers into shrub lands and apply fire within the historical return interval for basin big sagebrush. The removal of sagebrush with fire is expected to increase ground cover and increase the density and diversity of herbaceous plant species.
3. To apply fire within historical return intervals for aspen-conifer ecosystems. Fire will curtail the displacement of aspen by conifers, increase vegetative ground cover, and enhance the frequency and diversity of plant species associated with aspen.
5. To establish several burn study areas within mountain big sagebrush for the Anthro Mountain Sage Grouse Study. Burned areas will range from 5 to 300 acres and will be monitored to determine their value for sage grouse. Cooperators in this study include the Forest Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and Utah State University.
6. To burn selected stands of Douglas fir in the Lake Canyon drainage to provide travel corridors and improve habitat for Rocky Mountain big horn sheep. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is anticipating the reintroduction of big horn sheep to the area and has requested the burn treatments to facilitate their reintroduction.
7. To apply historical fire return intervals for mountain big sagebrush ecosystems. Sagebrush communities associated with these burns have not been burned for at least 30 years and, as a result, have shrub canopy covers that exceed 25%. Fire will reduce or

temporarily eliminate existing shrub canopies, which will result in the increase of vegetative ground cover, and enhance the frequency and diversity of plant species.

Fire intensity and percentage of each area burned will vary with conditions and objectives. Future prescribed burning in these areas will be periodic and will fall within natural burn intervals for each vegetative community considered for treatment.

We anticipate these projects will meet the requirements for categorical exclusion from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA) as described in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Section 31.2 (Categories 6 and 10), which include wildlife improvement and hazardous fuels activities. These categorically excluded activities are subject to notice, comment and appeal under the 36 CFR 215 rule.

The public is invited to offer comment at this time. Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project. Send your written comments to: John R. Kirkaldie, District Ranger, Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger District, at 650 W. Highway 40, P.O. Box 127, Roosevelt, Utah 84066. Comments may also be hand delivered to the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays; or submitted electronically to [comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us). Electronic comments should include the project name in the subject line and be submitted in MS Word (\*.doc) or rich text format (\*.rtf). Comments will be accepted for 30 days from the date of this notice.

If you desire further information, including detailed descriptions of the proposals, project areas, and maps, please contact Project Leader Allen Huber, project leader, at (435) 781-5226 or e-mail: [ahuber@fs.fed.us](mailto:ahuber@fs.fed.us).