



# News Release

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Supervisor's Office  
1200 Franklin Way  
Sparks, NV 89431

Contact: Christie Kalkowski, 775-355-5311

**For Immediate Release on August 11, 2008 - Stop Date is October 30, 2008**

## Forest Has 5 Wildland Fire Use Fires

**Sparks, Nevada...**The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest presently has five Wildland Fire Use fires burning:

- The **East Slide Rock Ridge** Fire, located about 15 miles southeast of Jarbidge, in the heart of the Jarbidge Wilderness on the Jarbidge Ranger District, is currently about 100 acres, and was detected on August 10.
- The **Whiskey** Fire, located approximately 30 air miles northwest of Las Vegas in the Mt. Charleston Wilderness on the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (NRA) just 3 miles southwest of Cold Creek, is less than .10 acres, and began on August 6.
- The **Crown** Fire, located 1/2 mile north of Yosemite National Park in California, approximately 1/4 mile west of Crown Lake in the Hoover Wilderness on the Bridgeport Ranger District, is 1 acre, and began on August 2.
- The **Arnot** Fire, located at 8,700-feet in elevation, approximately 4 miles south of the Wolf Creek Trailhead in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness in the Sierra Nevada on the Carson Ranger District, is 3 acres, began from a lightning storm on July 14, and was discovered on July 28.
- The **East Creek** Fire, located 25 miles northeast of Ely, in the High Schells Wilderness in eastern Nevada, on the Ely Ranger District, is 525 acres, and began on July 6.
- \* The **Bonanza** Fire, located approximately 30 air miles northwest of Las Vegas, around 3 miles above Cold Creek on the NRA, began on August 6. This previously managed Wildland Fire Use fire was suppressed on August 9 after better mapping placed it outside the Mt. Charleston Wilderness.

Wildland Fire Use is a lightning-caused wildland fire that is allowed to burn under carefully monitored conditions. These fires occur mainly in high-elevation Wilderness areas above 7,000 feet on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Roughly 16 lightning-caused fires occur annually in these areas. To date, most fires have been .10 of an acre or less, but the Forest expects to manage more Wildland Fire Use fires in the future.

"Wildland Fire Use is one tool that managers can use to create resilient forests and healthy rangelands across the Humboldt-Toiyabe," said Ed Monnig, Forest Supervisor. During the course of a Wildland Fire Use fire, it creates a mosaic. A mosaic refers to a mix of young and old forests across landscapes from these periodic and smaller fires.

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These smaller natural fires create small islands of young vegetation that may act as buffers to reduce fuels and the threat of future wildfires. Fuels include vegetation that will add fuel to wildland fires, such as grass, brush, or trees. Wildland Fire Use fires return valuable nutrients to the soil, invigorate native plant species by removing non-native species, and promote greater public safety by placing fire fighting resources on priority fires instead of in remote areas. This fire management strategy also has the potential to reduce suppression costs and save taxpayers' dollars.

Fire periodically removed dangerous fuel loads across the land long before the Forest Service was established in the late 1800s. A century of aggressively fighting all fires, increasing temperatures, and decreasing precipitation, have created today's unbalanced ecosystems.

District Rangers, federal land managers that oversee the Forest's 10 districts, and fire officials cautiously evaluate lightning strikes against a national set of criteria to gauge risks and potential benefits before initiating Wildland Fire Use. Some of the key considerations used to determine whether Wildland Fire Use is appropriate include:

- Threat to life, property, or resources;
- Relative risk to escape a pre-defined boundary;
- Current and expected fire spread, intensity, severity, and size, based upon weather and fuel conditions; and,
- Potential effects on social and economic values and to natural and cultural resources.

For further information on this release, please contact Forest Public Affairs Officer Christie Kalkowski at 775-355-5311. Learn more about Wildland Fire Use by visiting this website at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/fireuse/wildland\\_fire\\_use/use\\_index.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/fireuse/wildland_fire_use/use_index.html).

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