

NEWS RELEASE

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Ogden Ranger District

507 25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401



For Immediate Release

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Mountain Green Prescribed Fire

OGDEN, April 4, 2008 – The Ogden Ranger District is planning to implement a prescribed fire in the Mountain Green area. Depending on weather conditions, the prescribed fire could take place from April 14th through May 15th.

The Mountain Green Project would involve the use of prescribed fire on approximately 1000 acres of National Forest System land in Weber Canyon on the north slope above the Devils Gate in the Tatterson Creek Drainage, parallel to Interstate 84.

Resource Benefits

“The goal of the prescribed fire is to restore the integrity and diversity of the brush communities,” said Chip Sibbersen, Ogden District Ranger, “and to specifically create a mosaic pattern of uneven-aged brush and open grassy areas which directly benefit wildlife.”

Vegetation within the area is comprised of Gambel oak and bigtooth maple. This type of vegetation is a critical part of the forest ecosystem which provides biological diversity and numerous other resource benefits such as forage for wildlife, plant diversity, wildlife viewing opportunities and scenic beauty. However, over time decadent Gambel oak and bigtooth maple populations result in hazardous fuels build-up. Prescribed fires play a role in forest health by reducing hazard fuels which in turn reduces the risk and severity of unnaturally hot wildfires that can disrupt natural ecological processes. Reintroducing prescribed fire into the ecosystem establishes effective vegetation regeneration, lowers the occurrence of insect and disease, protects soils in the area, and prevents erosion.

Burn Prescription

“We feel that spring burning in this fuel type has a number of advantages over burning late in the summer or fall because of cooler night time temperatures, higher relative humidity, and higher soil moisture,” said Sibbersen.

To meet resource and safety concerns, prescribed fires must only occur when a specific set of conditions are met. These conditions include air, soil and vegetation moisture levels, temperatures, wind directions and speeds, smoke dispersal and expected fire behavior. The prescribed fire will only be ignited when fuel moistures and weather conditions will allow the smoke to rapidly dissipate or drift

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away from communities near the burn area. Qualified fire personnel will use hand-held drip torches and a helicopter to ignite fire in the designated units. Engines and crews will monitor the burn areas until the fire is completely extinguished.

Please contact the Ogden Ranger District at (801) 625-5306 or (801) 625-5112 or go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf/fire> to obtain the most current information pertaining to the status of the prescribed fires.

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MEDIA NOTE: IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING PRESENT DURING THE BURN, OR NEED FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT KATHY JO POLLOCK AT (801) 558-8016. PLEASE, BE ADVISED THAT YOU WILL NEED APPROPRIATE FIRE RETARDANT CLOTHING (NOMEX) AND PROPER FOOTWEAR (LEATHER BOOTS UP PAST THE ANKLE) IF YOU PLAN TO ACCESS THE FIRE AREA.

