

NEWS RELEASE
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Logan Ranger District
1500 East, Highway 89
Logan, Utah 84321-4373



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOGAN RANGER DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT
PRESCRIBED BURNS**

Salt Lake City, UT, October 2, 2008 –Brian Ferebee, Forest Supervisor, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest announced today, that the Logan Ranger District is planning to implement two prescribed burns. Depending on weather conditions, lighting of these prescribed burns could take place from October 6th through the end of November 30, 2008.

The first prescribed burn is Saddle Creek located approximately 14 miles East of Logan (see attached map) totaling 750 acres. The purpose of this project is rejuvenation and restoration of vegetation for increased diversity of habitat and wildlife species, such as elk, moose and mule deer and to restore and maintain age-class diversity among sage brush dominated stands and associated shrub-dominated communities. Treatments such as these also help to decrease the potential for high intensity wildfires.

The second prescribed burn is the Blacksmith Fork multi year project which, consists of 13 units totaling 4,800 acres of aspen, mixed conifers, sagebrush and grass. The plan this fall is to treat only 2 burn units NE-1 and NE-4 (see attached map) totaling approximately 1400 acres. The purpose of the burn is restoration and maintenance of age-class diversity among aspen dominated stands. Additional benefits include the restoration of young age classes of aspen for the benefit of wildlife species and to decrease the potential for intense wildfires with detrimental effects. The burn areas are located approximately 10 miles southeast of Logan and approximately 10 miles northeast of Hyrum, Utah.

Due to the absence of fire, historic grazing, and heavy use by big game, aspen regeneration has been hampered throughout much of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. An estimated 34% of the Aspen stands on the forest are becoming decadent and are deteriorating and need to be regenerated. Other vegetative communities, such as mixed conifers and in some areas Gambel oak and sagebrush, are replacing them. Aspen communities provide important habitat for various birds and mammals and are a significant portion of the mule deer diet.

(MORE)

Aspen stands also provide nutrient-rich litter, which decays rapidly, forming a substantial humus layer, which reduces runoff and provides excellent soil protection. Aspen stands are generally not considered highly flammable fuel and act as a natural fuel break during a wildfire.

Prescribed burns are one of the proven tools to use in the ecosystem for vegetation regeneration and hazardous fuels reduction as per the revised Wasatch-Cache National Forest Management Plan. To meet resource and safety concerns, prescribed burns must only occur when a specific set of conditions are met. These conditions include air quality, soil and vegetation moisture levels, temperatures, wind direction and speeds, smoke dispersal and predicted fire behavior. These prescribed burns will only be ignited when fuel moistures and weather conditions allow for smoke dispersal away from communities near the burn area. Some smoke can be expected to linger during the evening and early morning hours in communities near the burn areas. Qualified fire personnel will use hand crews and a helicopter to ignite fire in the designated area and engine and hand crews will monitor the fire area until it is completely out.

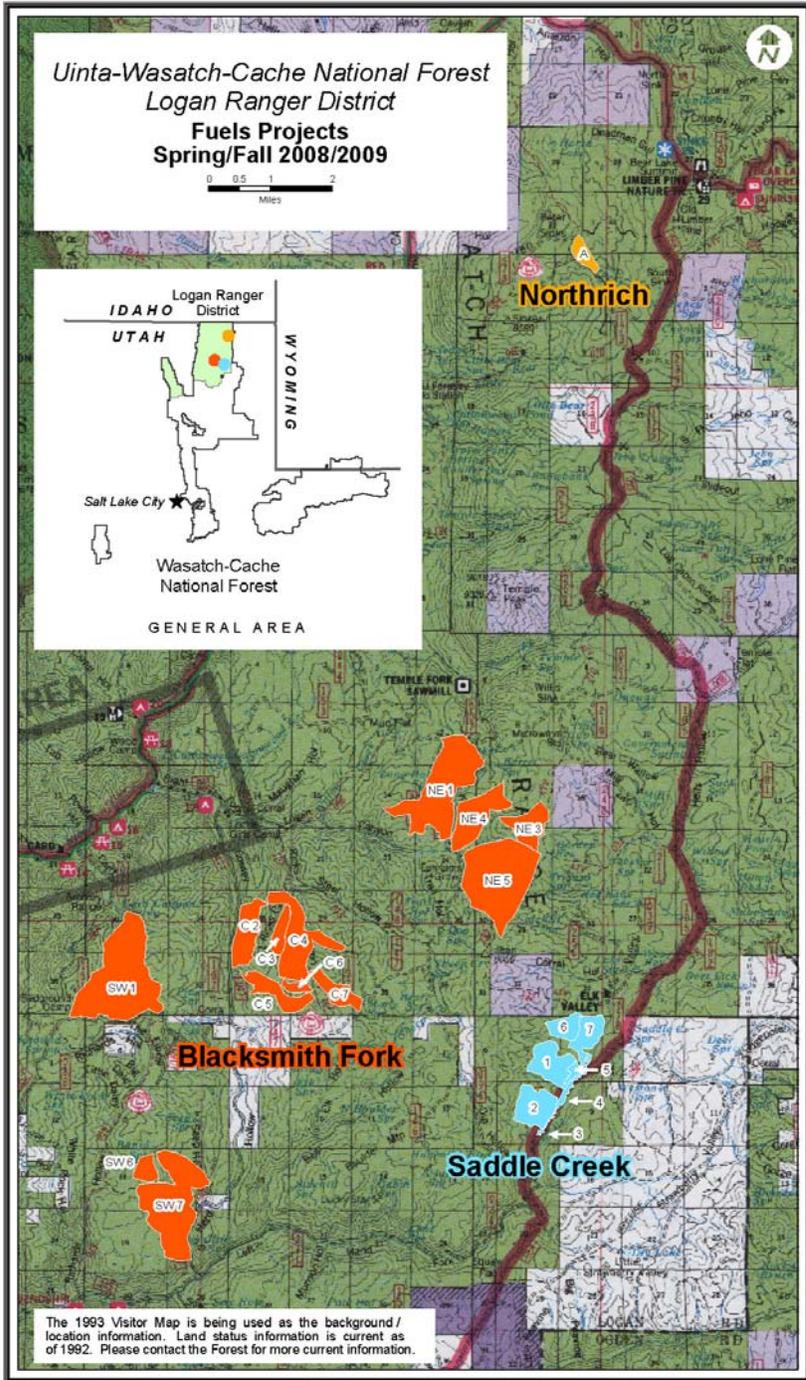
Visitors to the Forest can expect delays along the roads in the area during the day of the burns and can expect to smell smoke. The burn areas will be closed to the public on the day of the burns.

NOTE TO HUNTERS: These prescribed burns may be implemented during the elk and deer hunts, so hunters should contact the Logan Ranger District at (435) 755-3620 or go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/uwcnf/fire> to obtain the most current information pertaining to the status of the burns.

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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.

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Logan Ranger District
Fuels Projects
Spring/Fall 2008/2009



The 1993 Visitor Map is being used as the background / location information. Land status information is current as of 1992. Please contact the Forest for more current information.