

NEWS RELEASE
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOGAN RANGER DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT
BLACKSMITH FORK PRESCRIBED BURN**

Salt Lake City, Utah, October 24, 2008 –Fire managers on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest announced today, that the Logan Ranger District is planning to implement portions of the Blacksmith Fork prescribed burn. Depending on weather conditions, lighting of the prescribed burn could take place from October 27th through the end of November 30, 2008. The Blacksmith Fork multi year project consists of 13 units totaling 4,800 acres of aspen, mixed conifers, sagebrush and grass. The plan is to treat 1 burn unit NE-1 (see attached map) totaling approximately 634 acres. The burn area is located approximately 11 miles east of Logan and approximately 15 miles northeast of Hyrum, Utah. The primary purpose of the proposed treatment is restoration and maintenance of age-class diversity among aspen-dominated stands for the benefit of wildlife species and to decrease the potential for high intensity wildfires. To achieve this goal, approximately 40-70% of the treatment areas identified will be burned in order to stimulate regeneration of aspen. It is anticipated that the prescribed fire will also consume a component of shrub vegetation and pockets of fir.

The Saddle Creek prescribed burn totaling 750 acres was successfully implemented on Thursday, October 9, 2008. The burn treated 80% of the sagebrush to restore and maintain age-class diversity among sage brush dominated stands and associated shrub-dominated communities.

(MORE)

Saddle Creek hand lighting



Saddle Creek mosaic burn



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 FOREST USERS: to obtain the most current information pertaining to the status of the burn contact the Logan Ranger District at (435) 755-3620 or go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/uwcnf/fire>

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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.

