Prescribed Fire

OGDEN RANGER DISTRICT

Spring/Fall 2008-2009

Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Aerial Ignition, Monte Cristo Unit A, October 2004

Uintah Highlands and Mt. Green Prescribed Fires To Reduce Hazardous Fuels & Enhance Wildlife Habitat

If you would like more information about the Prescribed Fires planned on the Ogden Ranger District Please Visit.
www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf or call (801) 625-5112

USDA FOREST SERVICE
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Uintah Highland Fuels

PRESCRIBED FIRES

Prescribed fire is one tool used by fire managers to reduce hazardous fuels, restore ecosystem health and improve the quality of watersheds and wildlife habitat.

A prescribed fire only occurs when the temperature, humidity, wind speed and fuel moistures are within the prescribed fire plan objectives. Prescribed fires will be ignited when predicted weather and fuel conditions allow for minimized smoke impact on air quality and public health.

Prescribed fires can be ignited by hand, using drip torches or by air using helicopters to drop incendiary devices.

In order to restore fire to its natural role in forests and rangeland, we ignite prescribed fires in the spring and fall when weather conditions allow for slow, low intensity burning to protect the vegetation and soil. Specific management objectives may be to reduce the fuels and/or create a mosaic pattern in the vegetation to create cover, forage, and browse areas for wildlife. Prescribed fire can also mimic naturally occurring fire, enhance native plant species and create diversity in vegetation structure and distribution.

We know that fire is essential to the health of our forests and rangelands. Since conditions in many areas are conducive to large, severe wildland fires, and because so many people now live in or near the forest, we need fires to burn at cooler temperatures and lower intensities. By using prescribed fires, we can maximize the chance that they will burn on our terms with acceptable effects.

These prescribed fires are the first phases of a multi-year plan that reintroduces fire back into the ecosystem for re-vegetation and to reduce hazardous fuels near communities at risk as part of the revised Wasatch-Cache National Forest Management Plan.

The majority of the brush communities in the burn areas are approaching late seral stages due to a lack of natural disturbances. In addition, grazing, fire suppression, and other management practices have changed the forest structure and composition, causing a decline in the ecological health of the forests.

Prescribed fire and wildland fire use are tools that provide for ecosystem maintenance and restoration consistent with land uses and historic fire regimes. Fuels are managed to reduce the risk of damage to private property and to provide for public and firefighter safety by lowering the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

Uintah Highlands Prescribed Fire, Spring 2007,

UINTAH HIGHLANDS PRESCRIBED FIRE

The Uintah Highlands prescribed fire was implemented in early spring 2007. Approximately 400 acres of oakbrush and bigtooth maple were treated by hand ignition on March 14-15, 2007. The treatment in this area has reduced the hazardous fuels and created a diversity of age class oakbrush. It also provides modified fuel patterns for more effective, timely, and safe suppression efforts for future wildfires and improves wildlife habitat

MOUNTAIN GREEN PRESCRIBED FIRE

The Mountain Green project area consists of approximately 1000 acres in Weber Canyon. The proximity to the railroad, private land, and interstate 84 may increase the potential for a human caused fire in the area. This area is adjacent to private and state lands which may increase the complexity of implementing a prescribed burn. Mechanical treatments may be needed along the forest boundaries to keep the burn on Forest lands.

Uintah Highlands Prescribed Fire Hand Ignition

The vegetation in both areas is primarily Gambel oak and bigtooth maple. These large continuous stands of undisturbed oak/maple are often extremely thick and dense. This pattern of overly dense oak/maple thickets can present serious difficulties in controlling a wildfire due to the high heat intensity and high flame lengths. In 2003, the Farmington and Centerville wildfires illustrated the challenges in containing and controlling a wildfire in oak/maple vegetation. Experienced fire suppression staff found themselves surprised at the rate at which these fires spread and how difficult they were to control.

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Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Ogden Ranger District
Uintah Highland and Mountain Green Hazardous Fuel Projects Spring/Fall 2008/2009

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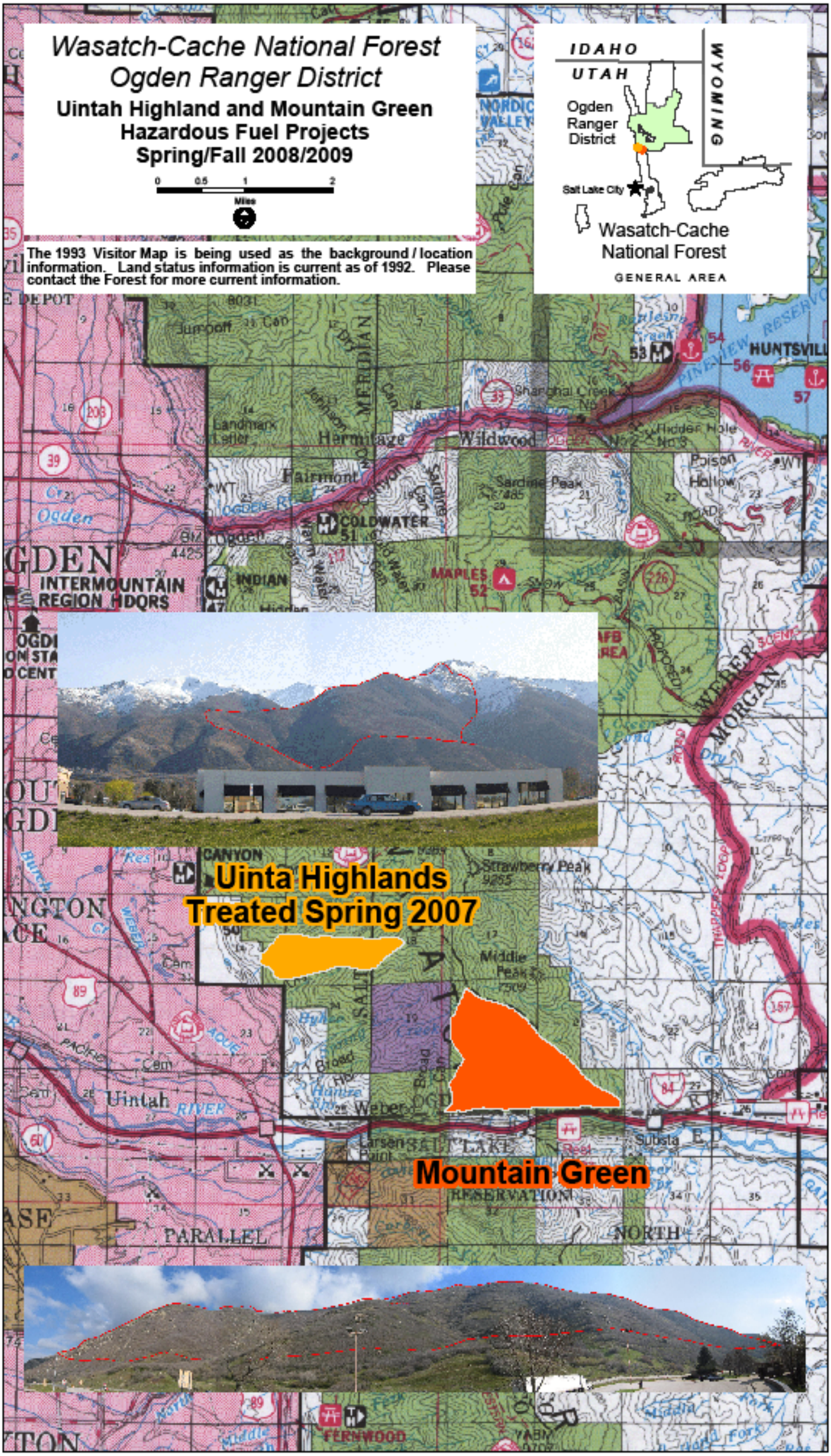
The 1993 Visitor Map is being used as the background / location information. Land status information is current as of 1992. Please contact the Forest for more current information.