

## Color Country Fuel Conditions 4/17/2003

Precipitation this past winter and spring averaged 70 % of normal, further stressing vegetation that received about 40% of the average moisture last year. Low elevation snowpack is gone. There has been above average moisture this Spring at regular intervals that is bringing up a good crop of grass.

### **Pinyon/Juniper**



Pinyon – 50-70% mortality in overstocked sites and rocky and/or shallow soil sites. Pinyon mortality is apparently a combination of drought stress and opportunistic ips beetles. Juniper – Around 20% mortality across the board. Some overstocked and low productivity south facing slopes exhibiting up to 90% mortality.

### **Mountain Brush**



Mountain brush and chaparral – Up to 30% mortality in this fuel type, particularly in manzanita, turbinella oak and mountain mahogany (lower elevation, <7,000, brush fuels). This appears to be drought related.

## Ponderosa Pine



Ponderosa – no apparent drought stress to date. Most ponderosa in SW Utah inhabit productive sites. Less than 1% mortality—due to mountain pine beetle.

## Spruce/Fir



Spruce bark beetles have killed much of the timber in this fuel type, creating large amounts of heavy dead fuel. Trees that have been attacked recently will still have dead needles in the canopy. There is an extreme snag hazard.

Grass and forbs – Abundant and green in the far SW corner of Utah. Still too early to tell on the northern and higher elevation reaches of the area.