



NEWS RELEASE

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Mill Hollow Wildland Fire Use Incident – The Other Face of Wildland Fire

Roosevelt, Utah. . . Today, the Mill Hollow Wildland Fire Use (WFU) burned more actively with individual tree torching causing it to grow slightly toward the northwest. Crews finished building hand line on the east flank of the fire and continue to prepare for a possible burnout operation. The burnout will only take place if conditions are favorable. There is a chance for wetter weather which would in the short-term, cancel plans for the burnout.

The Mill Hollow incident represents the other face of wildland fire, it is a fire that is being used as a tool to consume and clean out an area on the Ashley National Forest that is out of balance. The fire is burning in an area where Douglas and Sub Alpine Fir have led to the decline of extensive aspen stands.

This invasion increased competition for nutrients. This increased competition coupled with drought conditions has made the conifer trees weak and susceptible to beetle infestation. The Ips beetle, a pesky wood eater has bored into the trees and is quickly eating its way through the forest. Looking across the horizon, one can see that 30 to 40 percent of the forest on the south unit of the Ashley National Forest is dead.

The Mill Hollow Wildland Fire incident is burning the dead and down conifer trees. Torching and flames erupt when the fire hits a dead tree, otherwise it is slowly consuming built up fuel on the ground.

Managers on the Ashley National Forest are eager to see the results of this burn. They anticipate elk and other wildlife will have new lush open spaces to graze and the once prevalent aspen stands within the burn will begin to regenerate.

The Mill Hollow Fire started on June 23, 2008 from a single lightning strike.

For more information about Wildland Fire Use on the Ashley National Forest visit:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley/publications/2008%20wildland_fire_use_brochure_ver2.pdf

A road and trail closure order remains in place for roads and trails just east and north of Cat's Peak, Forest System Road (FSR) #081, #074, #076 and Forest System Trail #082.

The Reservation Ridge Road (FSR) #147 remains open.