



NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
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FOR: Immediate Release
DATE: July 23, 2008

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Mill Hollow Wildland Fire Use Incident

Duchesne, Utah – Cooler weather is helping to slow the spread of the fire and minimizing its growth. Crews, taking advantage of the cool weather continue to monitor and work on slowing its progress to the east. The west and south flanks are being allowed to burn naturally, however, the area is being monitored to ensure the fire remains within the Maximum Manageable Area (MMA). The MMA is an area designated by the forest where affects from the fire are expected to benefit natural resources. The southern boundary of the MMA is the Reservation Ridge Road. Of the 23,979 MMA acres the Mill Hollow Wildland Fire Use incident has burned 696 acres.

The Fishlake Regulars, Dromedary Peak brush crew, Kings Peak, and Zion Fire Use Modules are working along the Reservation Ridge Road, cutting up standing dead, dying, and down bug killed trees close to the road, prepping for potential burning. The purpose of the thinning is to eliminate any fuel that could carry the fire beyond the Reservation Ridge Road..

With so much work along side the Reservation Ridge Road people are being asked to avoid the area in the short-term. “Right now, we have a lot of crews working with chainsaws and clearing slash and brush on or near the road,” said Mike Elson, Deputy District Ranger for the Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger District. “The slash will be stacked and burned later this year or next spring. After fire crews have completed their work, firewood stacked near the road will be available to people with a valid firewood cutting permit. Right now we are asking the public to avoid the area to reduce congestion and provide for public and firefighter safety.” A timber sale unit stretching approximately 6 miles west from Avintaquin campground will remain closed to firewood cutting until after contracted work has been completed.

There are 113 people assigned to the incident. 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; please use caution since there is a lot of fire traffic along the road.

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

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