

Prescribed Fire

LOGAN RANGER DISTRICT
SPRING/FALL 2011-2012
UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE
NATIONAL FOREST



Hells Hollow Terra Torch September 2009

PREScribed FIRES

Prescribed fires, which are planned ignitions are just one tool used by fire managers to improve forest health by reducing hazardous fuels, improving the quality of watersheds and wildlife habitat.

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

Specific 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. It can also, 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 wildfires, and because so many people now live in or near forest and rangelands, we need fires to burn in a more controlled way. By igniting prescribed fires, we can maximize the chance that they will burn on our terms with acceptable effects.

SADDLE CREEK PRESCRIBED FIRE

The Saddle Creek 700 acre prescribed fire and 50 acres of mechanical treatment were implemented in the spring and fall of 2008. The treatment in this area has reduced the hazardous fuels and created a diversity of age class sagebrush and aspen. It also provides modified fuel patterns for more effective, timely, and safe suppression efforts for future wildfires and improves wildlife habitat.

NORTH RICH PRESCRIBED FIRE
The North Rich prescribed fire consists of one burn unit totaling approximately 120 acres of aspen, mixed conifers and sagebrush. The burn unit is located approximately 30 miles east of Logan, Utah and about 5 miles west of Garden Valley, Utah.

The purpose of the burn is to regenerate aspen and sagebrush communities to improve rangeland and enhance wildlife habitat. Additional benefits include improving overall health of aspen to lower the risk of insects, disease and the reduction of hazardous fuels.

HELLS HOLLOW PRESCRIBED FIRE

The Hells Hollow prescribed fire consists of 6 burn units totaling approximately 7,000 acres and is located approximately 14 miles east of Logan.

Depending on weather conditions, lighting of Units 1B, 1D and 2B totaling 3,502 acres could take place anytime from mid September 2011 through November 2011. Plans are to use aerial and hand ignition to treat the burn units.

The primary purpose of the prescribed fire is restoration and maintenance of age-class diversity among aspen dominated stands. Additional benefits include the re-generation of aspen for the benefit of wildlife, such as elk, moose and mule deer and to restore and maintain age-class diversity among sage brush dominated stands.

1800 acres within Unit 1A was successfully treated in October 2010 and portions of Unit 1B and all of 1C, totaling 2,010 acres were successfully treated in late September 2009. The treatment in this area has created an age class diversity among aspen and sagebrush dominated stands. It also provides modified fuel patterns for more effective, timely, and safe suppression efforts for future wildfires and improves wildlife habitat.



BLACKSMITH FORK PRESCRIBED FIRE

Blacksmith Fork prescribed fire consists of 13 units totaling 4,800 acres of aspen, brush, mixed conifer and grasses. Burning these units will be accomplished over a two to three year period. The burn units are located approximately 10 miles south-east of Logan, Utah and 10 miles northeast of Hyrum, Utah.

The purpose of the burn is restoration and maintenance of age-class diversity among aspen dominated stands. Additional benefits include the restoration of young age classes of aspen to benefit wildlife species and improve forest health by reducing hazardous fuels.



Hand Ignition Hells Hollow, September 2009

These prescribed fires or planned ignitions are part 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 Uinta-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 provides 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.



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Aerial Ignition on Hells Hollow October 2010

*North Rich, Blacksmith Fork,
Hells Hollow & Saddle Creek
Prescribed Fires To Enhance
Wildlife Habitat & Reduce
Hazardous Fuels*

If you would like more information about the prescribed fires planned on the Logan Ranger District please visit

www.fs.fed.us/r4/uwc or call (435) 755-3620



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