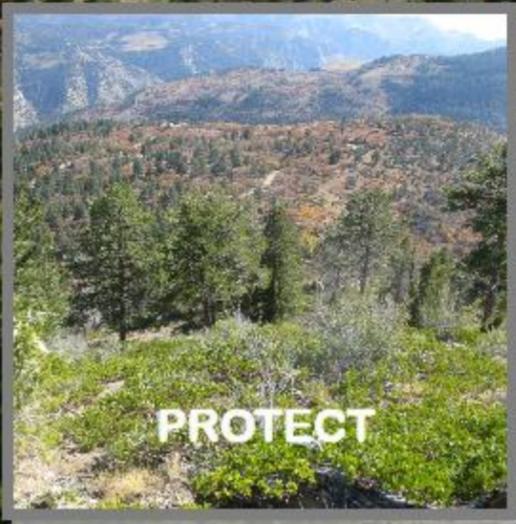
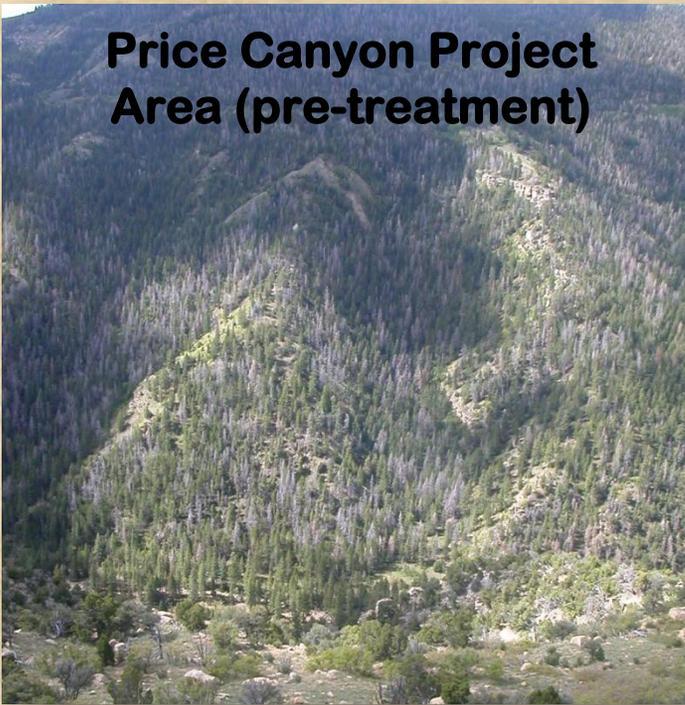


# Price Canyon Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Project



## Price Canyon Project Area (pre-treatment)



## OVERVIEW

The Price Canyon Project will occur in phases over many years and is a continuation of the Price Recreation Project started in 2002.

Planned and coordinated utilizing in-depth scientific research.

Various methods of vegetation treatments have been implemented to:

1. Protect against wildfires
2. Enhance wildlife habitat
3. Improve watersheds
4. Restore forest diversity and mixed age class

**Wildfire protection** includes thinning dense beetle infested conifer trees and oak brush adjacent to: campground infrastructure, roads, and hiking trails.

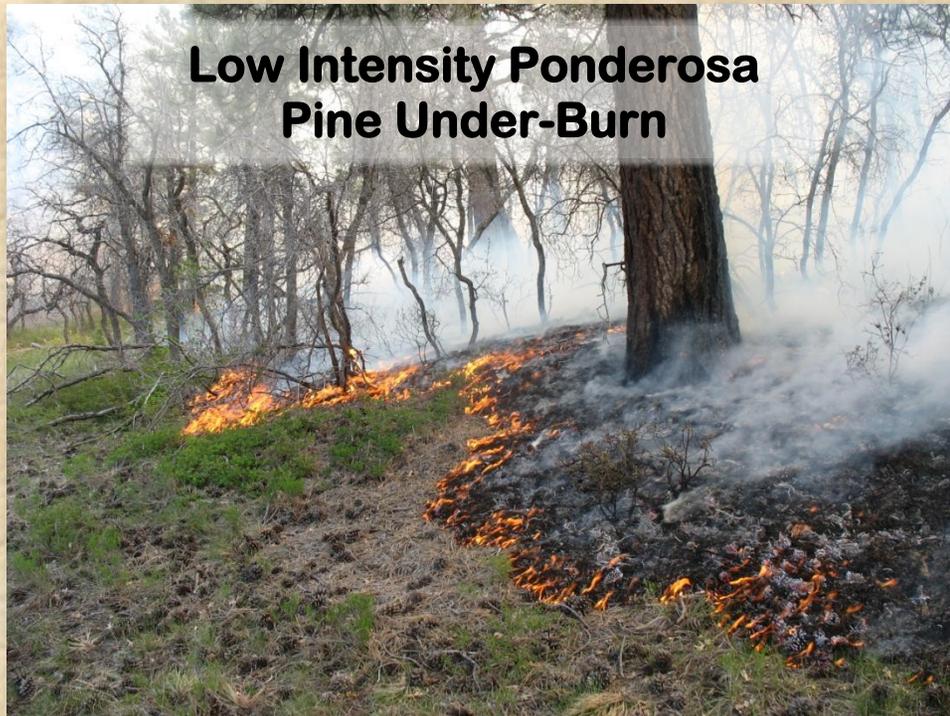
**Wildlife habitat enhancement** incorporates opening up ponderosa pine stands and leaving old growth ponderosa and bristle cone pine stands.

**Watershed improvement** consists of increasing ephemeral stream flows and decreasing soil run off and erosion.

**Diversity and mixed age class restoration** achieved by thinning and burning decadent oak brush, (thinning, piling and burning) mixed conifer, and conducting low intensity under burning in ponderosa pine.

## GOALS

- Reduce the probability of a stand-replacing wildland fire and protect human health and safety.
- Restore old growth ponderosa pine stands.
- Protect the Price Canyon Recreation Area Camp Ground
- Preserve bristle cone pine.
- Enhance and expand wildlife habitat.



## TREATMENTS

- Thin, Pile and Burn
- Understory Burn

## **HISTORY**

The Price Canyon area is a forest ecosystem containing old growth ponderosa pine stands, mixed conifer (Douglas-fir and white fir), gamble oak, aspen, and a few rare bristle cone pines. During the past century mixed conifer has dramatically increased in tree stand density posing high fire danger with the potential of forest replacing wildfire. Mixed conifer stands have been infested by pine beetles which have killed numerous trees adding to the fire danger.

The BLM has invested a substantial amount of time and resources into the Price Recreation Area. Based on the forests heavy loading of mixed conifer, BLM fire managers are concerned that large destructive fires in the area are imminent.

Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) is a general classification of the historical role fire played across a landscape prior to modern human intervention. Mixed conifer has played a significant role in fire regime departure among vegetation groups; including, aspen, gamble oak, and ponderosa pine. Most of these regimes are now FRCC-2 or 3, where FRCC-3 is a complete departure from historic fire occurrence and dominant vegetation class.

Fire regime departure is a key land management focus for the BLM due to undesirable consequences on the environment and destructive wildfire potential. Fire regime change can also influence declines in forage production, diminished habitat quality for wildlife, decreased herbaceous cover, and increases in soil erosion with implications for long-term ecosystem sustainability.

## **MONITORING AND REPEAT PHOTOGRAPHY**



**Price Canyon Macroplot 2 South September 10, 2007  
pre-treatment, ponderosa pine**



**Price Canyon Macroplot 2 South August 14, 2012  
post-treatment, ponderosa pine (thin, pile & burn)**

## COLLABORATION

- The Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative (UWRI) has been an integral project partner with contributed funding for the implementation of prescribed fire.
- Participation for project design was a collaborative effort within the Utah BLM's State Office Forestry staff, and the Moab and Price Field Office's; Fuels, Recreation, and Wildlife staffs.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- This unique forest ecosystem, once at risk from the impacts of mixed conifer encroachment, beetle infestation, and wildfire now has tangible signs of restoration, diversity, and resilience.
- In the event of a wildfire the Price Canyon Recreation Area Campground, the public, and firefighters will have an added degree of protection.
- The success of the Price Canyon Project is the unification of sound land management practice and the application of contemporary scientific research.



Utah Fire Info

[www.UtahFireInfo.gov](http://www.UtahFireInfo.gov)  
for more info and  
other on-going projects

BLM, Canyon Country Fire Zone, Price Field Office



Price BLM

# Price Canyon Project Area

