



## Moab Division of Fire Management

Price Field Office, Moab Field Office, Monticello Field Office

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### **Fuel Mitigation Project at Thompson**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Moab Field Office will be conducting a prescribed fire west of the community Thompson. The project is called the Thompson Springs Fuel Break. It is expected that the burn will take place over the next couple of days and be finished by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

The Thompson Springs Fuel Break is designed to aid in suppression efforts in the event that a wildfire threatens the community of Thompson Springs. The fuel break consists of a freshly bladed (June, 2005) two-track road about 1 mile west of Thompson Springs. To reinforce or strengthen the effectiveness of the fuel break, it is proposed that a 50 foot black line operation be conducted along the western edge of the bladed two-track. Recent winter and spring rains have allowed the cheat grass in this area to explode in height and continuity. In addition, there is a history of fires in the area west of Thompson Springs from railroad fires along the main east-west track of the railroad line. The construction and maintenance of this fuel break would allow crews to better fight and contain a wildfire that would threaten the community of Thompson Springs.

The fuel break starts on the south end just off of the frontage road north of interstate 70 and extends approximately 1.5 miles to the northwest until it reaches the book cliffs. The fuel break is constructed through a continuous stand of cheat grass with some scattered pockets of rabbit brush. To the south of the fuel break there are some riparian areas that have extensive tamarisk thickets. Mitigation efforts may be visible from I-70 in the vicinity of Thompson.

The community of Thompson Springs is located approximately 1 mile east of the fuel break. Construction and maintenance of this fuel break would prove crucial in suppression efforts in the event that a wildfire threatens the community from the west.

The primary objective of this burn is to reduce the fuel loading and widen the fuel break. In doing this, fire suppression crews will have a better chance at stopping a wildfire from threatening the community of Thompson Springs.

For more information, please contact Heather O'Hanlon at 435-259-2184 or go to website [www.utahfireinfo.gov](http://www.utahfireinfo.gov).

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