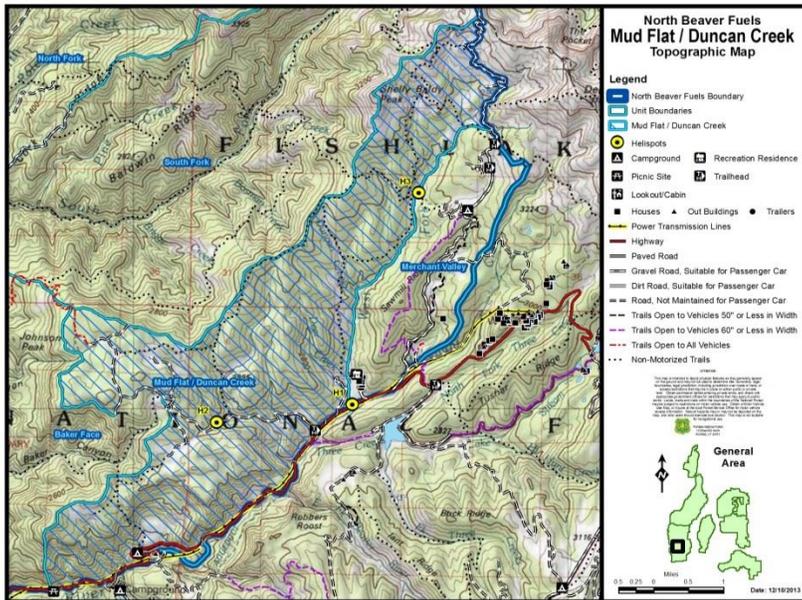




Mud Flat/Duncan Creek Mixed Conifer Prescribed Fire

Beaver Ranger District, Fishlake National Forest



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Planned Date: Starting spring 2015

Location: Midway up Beaver Canyon, approximately, 10 miles east of Beaver between Baker Canyon and Merchant Creek. N38°18'23.73" by W112°26'40.19"

Project Description:

Starting spring, 2015 the Beaver Ranger District hopes to begin implementation of this prescribed fire project by burning between 300-500 acres.

This project is part of the North Beaver Fuels project, which encompasses the area

north of Beaver Canyon to Indian Creek, and from the forest boundary on the west to approximately the Big Johns road on the east (60,000 acres). The Mud Flat Duncan Creek RX burn boundary includes only National Forest System lands and goes as such: Beginning at the northwest corner of Township 29 South, Range 6 West, Section 26 proceed north approximately 4 miles from State Highway 153 following the dominant ridgeline that separates Baker Canyon from the Skull flat and Mud Flat areas. At the head of the South Fork of Baker Canyon head northwest approximately 1 mile to Baker Peak, then turn north following the dominant ridgeline down through Jim Reed Creek in Section 2 and up to the ridgeline above the South Fork of North Creek. From this point turn east following this dominant ridgeline to the east/northeast approximately 6 miles to Shelly Baldy Peak, then approximately 2 more miles northeast to FS RD 123. At this point head south following FS RD 123 approximately 4 miles to Griffiths Creek, then following Griffiths Creek southwest to the junction of the West Fork of Merchant Creek located in the northeast corner of section 22. At this junction follow the West Fork of Merchant Creek southwest approximately 7 miles to State Highway 153. At this point follow State Highway 153 southwest approximately 4 miles to near the center of section 19, then follow the Beaver River southwest until it crosses under State Highway 153. Then follow State Highway 153 once again southwest to the beginning point located at the northwest corner of Township 29 South, Range 6 West, and Section 26.

The overlying objective is to reduce fuel loadings in this area. The area consists of mixed conifer, and Aspen fuel types. Fire exclusion over time in this area has left abundant dead and down fuels increasing the risk of a high severity wildfire. Objectives managers have for the burn are to return fire to its natural role on the landscape to maintain a diverse mosaic pattern of vegetation reducing the fuel loadings in the area. Due to elevation and fuel type (trees), burning in this area will occur for the most part in the fall with some spring burning. The entire 10,370 acre area **will not** be burned at once; smaller sections will be treated as conditions permit. Timeframes will vary depending on conditions and results. This area could be treated in as short as 2 years or may take up to 5 years plus. A mosaic pattern is desired with a diverse age class of vegetation. This will be achieved by using the changes in vegetation and topography to influence fire behavior. Ignition techniques that will be used in this unit consist of drip torches, and other hand devices that can easily be controlled. All prescribed fire prescriptions will be met, including the requirements by the State Department of Air Quality. Prescribed fire personnel will remain on-site until the area is safe for the public and the risk of escape has passed. Public notifications, press releases and road signs will be used to inform the public of status of the project.