



Edwards Spring Prescribed Fire Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest



Contact Information:

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Size: 500 acres

Planned Burn Date:

February – June, August - November 2013

Expected Duration: Approximately, 1 to 15 days of active ignition operations. 5-10 days for fire to clean up accumulated fuels.

Location: 7 Miles NE of Paragonah Utah. Edwards's spring project site lies in between the Buckskin flat on the north side of the project site and Cottonwood Mountain on the south side of the project site.

Legal Description: Township 32 South, Range 7 West: all or parts of Sections 35, 36 and Township 33 South, Range 7 West: all or parts of sections 1,2

Project Description: The southern boundary of the burn unit is the road going through Cottonwood Canyon and the burn area is up hill to the north of that road. The fuels in the area are a mix of decadent sage/bitterbrush shrub species, Pinyon and Juniper trees, Mahogany, multiple grasses/forb species, and Gamble Oak.

Over 300 acres of this project was burned during the spring of 2009. Another 280 acres was burned in the spring of 2012. The remaining 500 acres of this project will be burned by hand or by helicopter ignition operations starting as early as late February 2013.

The purpose of this burn is to improve forage/habitat for a diversity of wildlife and cattle that utilize the area. Returning the landscape to one dominated by a diverse mountain brush/grass/forb understory and a more historic distribution of Pinyon-Juniper trees. If left unmanaged over time Pinyon and Juniper forest will dominate the entire landscape rendering it far less productive for foraging purposes. Encroaching Pinyon Juniper trees out compete surface plants, leading to exposed soil and high erosion rates which damages the entire watershed. Thick stands of Pinyon Juniper forest have the potential for catastrophic wildfire to occur within them. By using prescribed burning techniques at cooler times of the year greatly mitigates the overall threat of a large catastrophic wildfire occurring in this area by reducing the overall fuels in the area with fire that is less harmful than fires that take place in the hotter summer months.