

NEWS RELEASE

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Logan Ranger District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLACKSMITH FORK PRESCRIBED BURN

Logan, Utah, September 25, 2015 - Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest fire personnel are planning to burn unit A this fall, for a total of 1,167 acres of aspen, brush, and conifer within the Blacksmith Fork prescribed fire project area. Implementation may occur at any time between September 28th through November 2015, weather permitting. The unit is part of a larger scale project that encompasses a total of four units (see attached map). Implementation of all four burn units will be accomplished over a two to four year period from 2015-2018, depending on weather and fuel conditions.

The Cowley Canyon road (Forest Service road #047) on the West side, Ricks Canyon trail (Forest Service trail #127) on the East side, and burn unit A will be closed to all uses for public and firefighter safety on the day of the burn and possibly the day after.

The purpose of the project is to restore and maintain age-class diversity among aspen for the benefit of wildlife species, such as elk and mule deer, and to improve forest health. The majority of the aspen communities in the burn areas are approaching late successional stages due to a lack of natural disturbances. Stands are characterized by a lack of regeneration of young aspen and a high content of mature trees that are in a state of decline. Prescribed fire provides for ecosystem maintenance and restoration consistent with land uses and historic fire regimes.

Qualified fire personnel will use hand held drip torches and a helicopter to ignite fire in the designated area. Engine and hand crews will monitor the fire area until it is completely out.

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