

NEWS RELEASE

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Heber - Kamas Ranger District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST TO IMPLEMENT THE PONDEROSA PINE RESTORATION PROJECT

Salt Lake Utah, October 9th, 2014 – Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest fire personnel plan to implement the Ponderosa Pine Restoration project, depending on weather conditions. The project will be implemented using prescribed fire. The prescribed fire may occur any time during October 11, 2014 through November 30, 2014 and target approximately 700 acres of ponderosa pine within a 3,900 project area. The ponderosa pine stands are divided into 10 burn units, which will be burned incrementally as conditions allow.

The exclusion of naturally occurring fire has changed the composition of the ponderosa pine groves to include a thick understory of juniper, mountain brush and lodgepole pine. The Ponderosa Restoration project is located in Summit County, approximately 10 miles east of Kamas, Utah. The project area encompasses 3,900 acres along the upper Provo River on the north side of the Mirror lake Highway from Co-op Creek, on the west, to Rock Creek and Soapstone campground to the East, (see attached map). This is one of the few native ponderosa pine stands on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

The primary objectives of this project are to preserve the genetic diversity of ponderosa pine by reducing the thick understory of juniper, mountain brush, and lodgepole pine; reduce wildfire risk along the highway corridor; improve watershed condition; restore wildlife habitat; and improve scenic quality.

Smoke may temporarily impact visibility on the Mirror Lake Highway (SR150) and may drift towards populated areas. Firefighters will use only hand held drip torches to treat the area and will patrol and monitor the burn until weather conditions eliminate the need or the fire is declared out.

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Ponderosa Pine Restoration Prescribed Fire Project
Heber-Kamas Ranger District
Fall 2014

