



# Bureau of Land Management

UTAH  
NEWS

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## BLM will Prescribe Fire to Aid Researchers

### BLM teams up with BYU to Analyze Fire Effects in the Great Basin

Fire management officials from the Bureau of Land Management West Desert District Fire Zone have teamed up with Brigham Young University to implement a research burn aimed to mimic natural fire behavior and its effect on vegetation, soil and animals. The Rush Valley research burn will be implemented on 10 half-acre plots within a 14-acre area in southern Tooele County, approximately six miles southeast of Vernon. The burn will take place during the week of September 19 and is expected to last just one day.

In addition to monitoring ecosystem response to fire, the study will examine the impact of drought on sagebrush systems. By using rain catchment devices to intercept and redistribute water, the researchers are able to simulate climatic fluctuations that may influence weed dominance. Research will also evaluate land management options to provide resource managers with improved information to make restoration management decisions with reduced risk and uncertainty. Data will be evaluated over the next three to 10 years.

For more information, visit: [www.sagestep.org](http://www.sagestep.org) or [www.utahfireinfo.gov](http://www.utahfireinfo.gov)

**-BLM-**

The BLM manages more land - over 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.