

NEWS RELEASE

Manti-La Sal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fire managers are making plans to burn up to 1,000 acres in Lackey Basin, 5 miles north of La Sal, Utah June 18-28, 2016. This will be highly visible to the public driving on SR-191 and SR-46. Before the burn, fire personnel will be out on the ground checking conditions to make sure they are right for the best results. A helicopter with special equipment and trained personnel will be used to efficiently and safely apply fire on the ground, while firefighters and engines will monitor the edge.

“If conditions do not meet specifications, we won’t burn,” says Moab/Monticello District Ranger Mike Diem. “This is a pretty large area, of concern to a lot of people, and we want to make sure we do it safely and right.”

Trails #100, 029 and 035 are expected to be closed during the ignition phase of the operation. Those will be signed at trailheads and visitors are encouraged to avoid camping in the nearby area. Follow the Manti-La Sal National Forest on Facebook for updates.

The purpose of this burn is to restore aspen by mimicking natural disturbance. This reduces the number of conifers and promotes new growth in aspen stands. Wildlife species such as mule deer, elk, and raptors will benefit from renewed growth, and more open grassy areas. Habitat for other species of concern will be enhanced as well and the potential for catastrophic wildfire in a watershed will be reduced.

Fire managers work to minimize smoke impacts to area residents and visitors. The public is encouraged to use public lands elsewhere during active prescribed burns. Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information see: www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health & <http://www.fs.fed.us/air/smoke.htm>

Continue to report new wildfires to the Moab Interagency Fire Center at (435) 259-1850.

District information is available in Moab at 435-259-7155 and in Monticello at 435-587-2041.

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