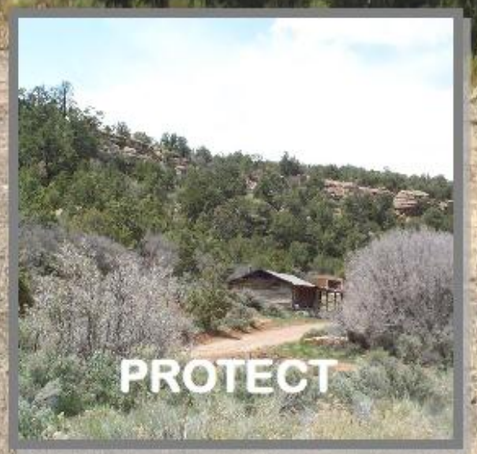
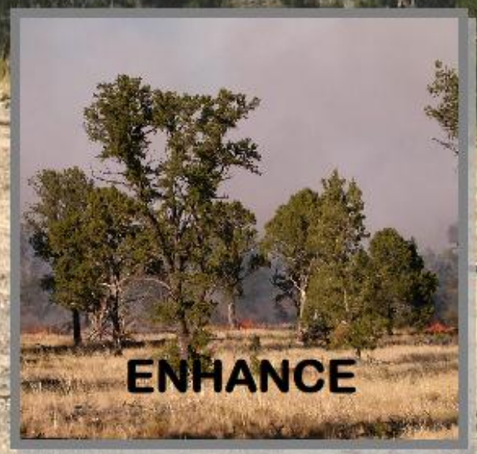
# Peters Point Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project






NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT


## OVERVIEW

This project is a continuation of the Peter's Canyon Project which began in 2005. Multiple phases of the project will occur over the next several years.

Planned and coordinated utilizing contemporary scientific research.

Various methods of vegetation treatments have been implemented to:

1. Protect against wildfires
2. Enhance wildlife habitat
3. Improve watershed condition
4. Restore plant communities

**Wildfire protection** includes thinning dense pinyon/juniper trees adjacent to communities, roadways, utility corridors and infrastructure.

**Wildlife habitat enhancement** entails establishing savanna like open space in encroaching pinyon/juniper and leaving old growth pinyon/juniper woodlands as travel corridors for big game herds as they access the Abajo Mountains.

**Watershed improvement** consists of increasing ephemeral stream flows, dredging stock ponds for increased water retention and decreasing soil erosion.

**Plant community restoration** comprises cutting beetle killed pinyon, thinning pinyon/juniper encroachment, rehabilitating old chaining sites and restricting livestock grazing for two years in each phase (allowing plants to establish).

## GOALS

- Reduce the potential of wildfire damage for adjacent communities.
- Preserve and enhance critical winter habitat for deer and elk.
- Enhance sagebrush communities.
- Restore ecological resilience to watersheds.
- Reduce density of pinyon/juniper woodland encroachment.



## TREATMENTS

- Chipping/Mastication
- Maintenance Underburn
- Broadcast Burn
- Thin, Pile & Burn
- Seeding
- Pond & Spring  Restoration

# HISTORY

The Peter's Point area ecosystem is dominated by pinyon (*Pinus edulis*) and juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) woodlands and sagebrush (*A. tridentata ssp. Wyomingensis*). During the past century pinyon and juniper (P-J) woodlands have dramatically encroached into the domain of vital vegetation regimes on this landscape. P-J woodlands represent the third most extensive vegetation type in the continental U.S. Recent comparison by historical photo documentation shows there has been a 100% P-J increase across southern Utah. P-J woodlands are highly flammable and BLM fire managers are concerned that large destructive fires in the area are imminent.

Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) is a general classification of the historical role that fire played across a landscape prior to modern human intervention. P-J encroachment has played a significant role in fire regime departure among vegetation groups including: sage brush, grass lands, and native forbs. Most of these regimes are now FRCC-2 or 3, where FRCC-3 is complete departure from historic fire occurrence and dominant vegetation class.

Over the past several decades, P-J encroachment has been a major focus for the BLM due to its spatial extent and the undesirable consequences of fire regime change. Vegetative competition from P-J has contributed to declines in forage production, diminished habitat quality for wildlife, decreased herbaceous cover, and increases in soil erosion with implications for long-term ecosystem sustainability.

# MONITORING AND REPEAT PHOTOGRAPHY

Peter’s Canyon Photo Point1-Direction1
August 5, 2005 Pretreatment

Peter's Canyon Photo Point 1-Direction1
June 8, 2010 Post-treatment & native seed response

## COLLABORATION

- The Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative (UWRI) with contributions from the Division of Wildlife Resources, Mule Deer Foundation, Sportsman for Fish & Wildlife and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, donated funding for seed, spring and stock pond impovements.

- Participation for project design was a colaborative effort within the BLM Monticello Field Office's Fuels, Wildlife, Hydrology and Range staffs.

- Utah Forestry Fire and State Lands developed Community Wildfire Protection Plans with adjacent communities which were incorporated into the design of the Peter's Point Project.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- The treated areas within this project now have tangible and visible signs of returning to a diverse and resilient desert ecosystem.

- The achievement of the Peter's Point Project is the application of sound land management practice, collaboration between multiple interest groups and the application of contemporary scientific research.

Utah Fire Info

**Visit-**
**www.UtahFireInfo.gov**
**for more information and other on-going projects.**

**BLM, Canyon Country Fire Zone, Monticello Field Office**

Monticello BLM

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS

# Peter's Point
## Wildland Urban Interface Fuel Reduction Project

## 2,109 Acres

### LEGEND

- Peter's Point Project (Completed-1,945 Acres)
- Peter's Canyon Project (Completed-164 Acres)
- Hand Pile Burn (711 Acres)
- Mastication/Mowing, Old Chaining (295 Acres)
- Mastication/Mowing, High Density PJ (857 Acres)
- Mastication/Mowing, Moderate Density PJ (298 Acres)
- Mastication/Mowing, Sage (148 Acres)
- Broadcast Burn (145 Acres)
- Seeding (145 Acres)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- US Forest Service (USFS)
- State
- Private
- Mile Markers

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Miles

State of Utah

Peter's Point Project Area
Wildfire Burn Probability

Burn Prob
High
Low