



Bureau of Land Management

Utah
News

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BLM Announces the Blue Mountain Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Vernal, Utah— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Green River District (GRD) will begin a hazardous fuels reduction project in and around the Jenson community near Vernal, Utah, beginning in the summer of 2014. The project will use a variety of vegetation treatments to primarily reduce the risk of wildfires on BLM lands, and to promote important sagebrush habitat for a variety of wildlife species in the project area.

The Blue Mountain project will decrease the hazardous fuels on a total of 6,280 acres. Implementation of this project consists of broadcasting an approved seed mix over the treated area, reducing some juniper trees, and removing patches of decadent sagebrush. This is a project involving multiple agencies and private landowners that have cooperated to achieve multiple resource objectives. An example is reducing fire behavior in the event of a wildfire. The Blue Mountain project is located on the Yampa plateau in an area of concern for a greater sage grouse population. “The GRD Fire Management Office of the BLM is excited to participate in multi-partner habitat projects that can enhance the recovery of the Greater sage grouse populations. This is a win-win project achieving both habitat improvement and limiting wildland fire behavior” Blaine Tarbell, NRS, BLM, GRD Fire Management.

Land managers throughout Utah annually conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects in the spring and fall by thinning vegetation, pile burning, and conducting larger prescribed fires. These projects reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires entering private property from BLM-administered lands and can improve firefighter and public safety. For further information on this project, please contact Blaine Tarbell (435)781-2772 or Hank Barela (435)781-2741.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.