



With your help in 2011, we were able to achieve many important goals. As you know, BLM fuels projects seek to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire while restoring ecosystem function and improving wildlife habitat.

As we embark on a potentially busy 2012 wildfire season the BLM West Desert District Fuels program would like to share our successes throughout the last year while providing an overview of future plans in Tooele County.



**Stockton Juniper Removal Project**

**NOTE:** Increased spacing between Juniper trees-reducing the threat of wind-driven crown fire.

Our fuels treatments have helped reduce the size and cost of unplanned ignitions. For example, in Skull Valley two fires, the Muskrat and Broon's Fire, were ignited by lightning on the same day, at the same time within three miles of each other. Containment on the fire burning in a fuels treatment was easier to access, burned less hot and consequently less expensive to fight.



**Muskrat Fire-Untreated Fuels-~\$50,000**



**Broons Fire-Treated Fuels-~\$11,000**

2011-2012 Projects	Treatment	Acres
Stockton-Phase I & 2	Bullhog	2500
Onaqui-Douglas Fir Protection Project Rush Valley	Chainsaw	250
Onaqui East Bench	Bullhog & Seed	2100
Lofgren Phase I	Bullhog	1000
Iosepa Phase 5	Bullhog & Seed	369
Northern Oquirrh Management Area Lincoln/Pine Canyon	Disk & Seed	850

**Prescribed Fire** is used to mimic periodic fire occurrence. Low intensity fire is vital to the life cycles of fire-dependent rangelands.

**Mechanical Treatments** are utilized in reducing the hazards posed by wildfire by reducing fuels.

**Seeding Treatments** facilitate competition with invasive species, reducing the potential for noxious weed invasions.

We're proud of our partnerships in community education and involvement. Federal funds administered by the State of Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands have assisted fuels reduction projects on private ground, reinforcing similar work conducted on public lands managed by the BLM.

BLM West Desert District partners with a consortium of agencies and organizations to leverage limited budgets. Contributing partners include the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation and the Watershed Restoration Initiative.



Town of Stockton Meeting-June 2011

Thank you for being an integral part of the West Desert District's foundation of support. From all of us here at the fire program, please accept our deep appreciation for your assistance in the shared success.

**Contact Information:**

Bureau of Land Management  
West Desert District  
2370 South 2300 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84119  
801.977.4300

[http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/salt\\_lake.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/salt_lake.html)



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Last fall BLM West Desert District initiated an exciting project in the Crawford Mountains, it's a hazardous fuels reduction project focused on habitat restoration for mule deer and sage grouse. The 2,000-acre project is expected to last throughout 2012.



Crawford Mountain Project

Fuels treatment projects also benefit the watershed. For instance, in 2009, we conducted a prescribed burn 10 miles northwest of the town of Randolph. The goal of the prescribed fire is to stimulate aspen regeneration where conifers have taken over stands of mature aspen. In 2012 we plan to extend the prescribed fire effort in Otter Creek drainage to treat an additional 80 acres.



Otter Creek Aspen Regeneration Project- Prescribed Fire



Two years later. NOTE: new aspen sprouts-good for wildlife habitat

As in 2009, the goal remains removing conifers while stimulating aspen regeneration. The Otter Creek Aspen Regeneration Project has been designed in conjunction with the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, private landowners, and the Utah Partners in Conservation and Development (UPCD). UPCD generously granted \$18,000 toward fencing materials to protect new aspen shoots in recognition of its importance and priority for watershed health.



**Laketown created a Community Wildfire Protection Plan identifying wildfire hazards, an evacuation plan and defensible space concepts.**

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In north Grouse Creek we've initiated an aggressive 2,000-acre Bullhog project targeting thick juniper trees in the area. The project is a wildland-urban interface project designed to protect the community of Grouse Creek by reducing the amount of fuel in the event of a wildfire. Project work on the Grouse Creek project is expected to last through 2012.

### **Grouse Creek Bullhog Project**



**Before. Thick Juniper tree Stand**

**After. Shredded Juniper trees result in reduced wildfire risk and improved wildlife habitat.**

### **Pole Creek Project**

In Pole Creek we've been working on another bullhog project. This 900-acre thinning treatment has been creating a mosaic pattern of varying age classes within thick juniper stands. Juniper removal increases water availability, leading to increased plant productivity and healthier ecosystems. Pole Creek is a hazardous fuels reduction project aimed to benefit watershed and wildlife.



**Pole Creek Riparian Area**

## Demonstrated Success in Box Elder County

**Location:** Cook Canyon Fuels Project, Box Elder County



Figure I.

The Pine Creek Fire was a running crown fire in the thick stands of Juniper trees in Cook Canyon, Box Elder County.

Crown fires are difficult and dangerous to suppress.

**NOTE:** Size and Intensity of flame lengths.



Figure II.

When the Pine Creek wildfire hit the Cook Canyon Bullhog project it changed from a crown fire to a more manageable surface fire.

**NOTE:** Reduced flame lengths. See background-fire now burning on the ground.



Figure III.

The Cook Canyon fuels treatment area provided increased safety and accessibility.

Suppression tactics were able to change from an indirect attack to a direct attack with engines on the ground.

**NOTE:** Bird's eye view of Cook Canyon Fuels Project.

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