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Prescribed Burn Planned For Farmington Bay

Farmington, Utah -- The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, in coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is planning a prescribed fire on the shoreline of Farmington Bay. Depending on weather and expected smoke dispersal, the burn will take place, tomorrow, June 1, 2011. Fire managers expect favorable winds in the morning hours and plan to ignite the first sections between 10 and 11 a.m.

The prescribed burn is part of a comprehensive restoration plan aimed at eliminating the invasive Phragmites reed which has infested thousands of acres along the bay. Removal of the invasive species will enable the restoration of native wetland plants. The objective is to create a more hospitable habitat for waterfowl and a more accessible setting for the public wishing to visit the area. Various strategies for controlling the reeds have been proposed including mechanical removal, grazing and chemicals. Most of the land is covered by water or mud, making fire the most favorable tactic. The Phragmites in target area was treated with herbicide and the remnants must now be removed. The combination of herbicide and prescribed fire has resulted in high success rates for eradicating the reed.

A prescribed burn is a planned, carefully monitored fire where the burn processes, and contingency procedures, are established in advance. Land managers have identified the precise conditions necessary to ensure the safety of the surrounding communities, proper smoke dispersal, and normal traffic conditions in the area.

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