



GARY R. HERBERT
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Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER

Executive Director

RICHARD J. BUEHLER

Division Director/State Forester

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Jason Curry

FFSL Public Information Officer

(801) 538-7302 or (801) 703-0225

jasoncurry@utah.gov

Pile Burning Planned for Galena Park (Bluffdale, Riverton, Draper Area)

Riverton, Utah –Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands personnel plan to burn approximately 300 piles of invasive trees along the Jordan River Parkway between 13200 South and 13900 South on May 4, 2011. Smoke will be visible in the area throughout the day beginning at about 9 a.m. (see attached map). The Jordan River Parkway will be closed to the public from 8 a.m. until burning operations are concluded.

Fire managers and smoke management personnel have set parameters which require the burn operation to occur during specific weather conditions. The projected conditions indicate that the smoke will rise high above the valley floor before dissipating. If the weather changes, ignition will be delayed until the conditions are favorable. Ignitions will be conducted in accordance with a detailed prescribed fire plan that emphasizes firefighter and public safety. The operation will be closely monitored to diminish the possibility of uncontrolled fire behavior.

In 2010, crews cut and piled dozens of invasive Russian Olive and Tamarisk trees opening the wetland and improving wildlife habitat along the river corridor. Crews had planned to burn the piles next winter, but getting rid of them has taken on a higher priority. With the expected rise in the Jordan River, the piles could present a flood hazard if the branches wash downstream.

The goal of the operation is to improve the land and enhance the scenic value along the parkway. In addition, burning the piles will return important nutrients to the soil, completing fire's regenerative cycle. Thinning and pile burning are part of an ongoing effort to achieve land management objectives, reduce fire hazard, and protect communities. For more information, please call Jason Curry at (801) 703-0225.

A map of the affected area is located at: <http://goo.gl/pA1my>

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