

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THIRD WATER WILDFIRE

Spanish Fork, Utah, August 8, 2013 – The lightning caused Third Water wildfire was reported on August 6th at 2:30 p.m. The fire has burned approximately 100 acres and is located on the Ridge between Third Water and Fourth Water creeks, east of the Sheep Creek/Ray's Valley Road on the Spanish Fork Ranger District.

The fire received light precipitation yesterday. The fire continues to creep through thick oak brush with occasional torching. Fire personnel will continue to monitor the fire, allowing it to spread naturally to meet Forest resource objectives of reducing hazardous fuels, and re-generation of aspen and Douglas fir stands. "Fire in the right place at the right time has the ability to improve wildlife habitat and keep the ecosystem healthy. Several of the native plant communities in higher elevations or higher precipitation zones benefit from fire. The new growth after a fire is often, more palatable and more desirable for wildlife," stated John Fairchild, Central Region Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Crews will take necessary suppression actions to protect range improvements and water quality, and to keep the fire between Strawberry Ridge and Ray's Valley Road. Smoke impacts should be minimal, but may be seen from both Utah and Wasatch Counties. Forest Service Road # 70258, the Great Western Trail, Fourth Water Trail and the Third Water Trail within the area are now closed until further notice for public safety. (see attached map)



Photo 8/6/13 of Third Water Wildfire, located on Spanish Fork Ranger District

