

NEWS RELEASE

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Spanish Fork Ranger District

44 West 400 North
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kim Osborne, 801-710-3664

Loyal Clark, 801-310-3633

WILLOW CREEK FIRE BURNING IN MT. NEBO WILDERNESS

Spanish Fork, Utah, August 18, 2010 – The Willow Creek fire has burned approximately 125 acres in steep, rugged terrain within the Mt. Nebo Wilderness. The fire is being managed by Cody Peel’s Type 3 team. The lightning-caused fire is actively burning in pinyon juniper, mahogany, and sage and is being managed to protect private lands and property, municipal and irrigation water sources, and provide for firefighter and public safety.

Engine crews monitored the fire overnight and secured control lines at lower elevations. Due to the steep, hazardous terrain, firefighters will use an indirect attack strategy throughout the day.

Firefighters will continue to construct fire line up Cedar Ridge to the wilderness boundary. On the lower west side of the fire, firefighters will improve Willow Creek Road and maintain fire lines.

The fire will be allowed to play its natural role within the wilderness in the higher elevations where natural barriers will limit the fire’s progress. Fire suppression tactics are limited due to access, topography, steep terrain, and significant risk to firefighter safety. Smoke, haze, and some torching will be visible at times through the next several weeks.

Willow Creek road, Willow Creek trail, and the fire area are closed. Fire officials are requesting the public to stay out of all areas where firefighters are working.

Resources on the fire include two 20-person hotshot crews, and a 20- person hand crew, four engines, one water tender, and two helicopters. Cooperating agencies include Juab County, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.

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