



# Moab District Division of Fire Management

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For Immediate Release  
July 21, 2004

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## Trail Canyon Fire

**Emery County, UT...21 July 2004...** The Trail Canyon Fire continues to burn on Bureau of Land Management and State of Utah Lands. The fire is located on the west side of Desolation Canyon approximately 30 miles southeast of Price and 30 miles northeast of Green River. The fire is currently at 508 acres. Due to concerns for firefighter safety, steep slopes, fire behavior, lack of access, and resource benefits, fire is currently being monitored and evaluated.

Fire behavior has diminished over the past several days due to higher humidity levels, cooler temperatures, and cloud cover. Over the past five days, the fire has only grown by eight acres. While thunderstorms have been occurring throughout the area, only minimal precipitation has been experienced on the fire. Fire is currently burning in a stand of Douglas-Fir on the northwest part of the fire, backing down the slope and moving to the west. Incident Commander, Bradley Washa, from the BLM's Utah State Office, indicated, "Fire activity has calmed down substantially from earlier in the fire, but it is expected to increase over the next week with the forecasted hotter and drier weather."

Fifty-four firefighters are currently working on the fire including the Mt. Taylor Interagency Hotshot Crew from Grants, New Mexico and the Fishlake #1 Crew from Richfield, Utah. The Snake River Helitack crew and helicopter out of Jerome, Idaho is also working on the fire and assisting with new initial attack in the area. An Incident Command Post has been established at the Tavaputs Ranch.

It is expected that the fire will continue to burn into the summer. Crews have constructed a contingency line off of the base of Range Valley Mountain between Trail and Dilly Canyons. If fire approaches the contingency line, burn-out operations will be conducted from this location. Crews have also been developing defensible space around several near by ranches. Long term strategies and plans are being developed to manage the fire. Washa further said, "We anticipate releasing the crews in the next few days once the contingency line and defensible space projects are completed. Plans, contingency lines, and structure protection are in place should the fire activity increase and we need to bring resources back to the fire."

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