

NEWS RELEASE

Manti-La Sal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501



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Wildland Fire Use On The Manti-La Sal National Forest

Two lightning-caused fires on the Manti-La Sal National Forest are currently being managed for resource benefits. Both fires began July 14, 2004. Fire personnel went through a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WIFP) assessment and determined that wildland fire use was appropriate in both wildland fire starts.

The **Lake Canyon Fire** is located in the Lake Fork drainage, south of the small town of Thistle, two miles from the Forest boundary. It is in a grass and pinyon juniper vegetation area. The first day of the fire it grew to ten acres in size and the second day increased by two acres. The fire has continued to burn the heavy fuels that were ignited. There are only a few little smoke spots remaining. Local wildland fire crews will be checking the fire each day until the fire is declared out.

The other lightning caused fire began in an area called the Pines that is west of Emery City. The Forest is calling this the **Link Fire**. The fire is burning in ponderosa understory through pine needles and dead logs. The first day, this fire was only one-tenth of an acre. By Monday, July 19, 2004, the fire had grown to two acres. A local wildland fire crew is in the area monitoring fire behavior and fire effects. Because of drying conditions, it is expect that several more acres will burn. Another assessment will be made if the fire size and activity threatens lives or property, or if the internal and external

concerns such as smoke become an issue. Following this assessment, a decision will be made to either continue with the wildland fire use or to suppress the fire.

The Manti-La Sal National Forest allows Wildland Fire Use in predetermined areas to achieve multiple resource benefits. While the destructive potential of wildland fire is evident, fire is likewise recognized as an essential part of forest ecosystem health. Many plant and animal species are dependent upon fire to create the exact conditions they need to flourish. Fire managers seek to strike a balance between suppressing fires that threaten lives or property, and allowing fire to be used as a tool to promote forest health. Fires such as these are considered beneficial, and are permitted to burn under specific conditions. Wildland fire use for resource benefit can occur when fire is ignited naturally (lightening) and is not human caused.

Over time, fallen dead trees, needles and other debris (fuels) have accumulated. Wildland fire use can be managed to burn in a natural way to reduce fuel build up and provide benefits to the resources until rain or snow storms put it out. Wildland fire use is closely managed by fire specialists until the fire is declared out.

If you would like more information of Wildland Fire Use of the Link Fire, please contact Kim Soper at 435-636-3502.