

# NEWS RELEASE



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: September 5, 2004

Contact: Ann King  
Phone: 435-636-3535

## **Six Mile Wildland Fire Use Update**

**Ephraim, UT:** As folks head to the mountains for the Labor Day weekend, they may encounter smoke from the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Resource managers are using a wildland fire started by lightning on July 27, 2004, in the Six Mile Canyon area to play its natural role on the landscape. By utilizing the “Wildland Fire Use” management tool, fire officials and resource managers will accomplish benefits to wildlife forage for mule deer and elk and reduce the build-up of hazardous dead and downed fuels.

Yesterday’s strong southwest winds pushed the Six Mile fire eastward up the canyon producing a smoke column that could be seen all across central Utah. The fire grew from 400 acres to approximately 2,500 acres.

District Ranger, Nancy Ross, wants forest visitors to know that the entire Six Mile Canyon area is closed, including the Black Mountain area. “Entering or being on roads, trails, and National Forest System lands within this closure area is prohibited to protect the safety of both the public and fire personnel.”

Greg Dettinger, Sanpete County Commissioner; Kevin Holman, Sanpete Director of Emergency Management, and Fred Johnson, Sanpete Fire Warden toured the fire by helicopter yesterday afternoon. “I believe this fire is a good thing and will prove to be of great value to our forest and wildlife for years to come,” Dettinger said.

The Six Mile Wildland Fire Use area located 6 miles southeast of Manti, UT, is monitored closely. “Fire managers review the progress of the fire and weather forecasts each day to determine if suppression action is necessary to protect life and property,” explained Manti-La Sal Fire Management Officer, Kim Soper. No suppression action has been taken to date.

The fire continues to be managed to accomplish resource objectives outlined in the Forest Management Plan of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The Plan allows naturally ignited fires to burn within designated Fire Use areas under specific management guidelines. Under these conditions, fire is allowed to play its natural role on the landscape.

Smoke from the fires may be visible for the next few weeks, depending on weather conditions and fire behavior. Fires are generally most active during the late afternoons, when temperatures maximum and humidity is lowest.

Fire managers indicated the Six Mile Fire could burn until a season ending event occurs, like a snowstorm.

If you would like more information on Wildland Fire Use visit [WWW.Utahfireinfo.gov](http://WWW.Utahfireinfo.gov), or please contact Kim Soper at 435-636-3502.