

Utah Interagency Fire Information

Cooperating Agencies:



Bureau of Land
Management

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Contact: Jim Springer (801) 243-9466
Susan Marzec (801) 539-4028
Kathy Jo Polock (801) 558-8016



State of Utah,
Department of Natural
Resources

FALL IS PRESCRIBED FIRE SEASON

While Smokey Bear encourages us to do our part and not start wildfires, there are times and places where fire is useful. Used correctly, prescribed fire, or a fire that is intentionally started under specific conditions, will reduce fire hazards, remove dead or diseased vegetation, restore wildlife habitat or improve a watershed. Low intensity fire is essential to the health of our forests and rangelands.



U.S. Forest Service

State and federal agencies are currently conducting, or plan to use prescribed fire in numerous locations statewide through the next few months. "When weather conditions allow for slow, low intensity burning, we can achieve specific management objectives without damaging wanted vegetation and soil," explained State Forester Joel Frandsen. "Because it can mimic naturally occurring fire, we can use it to enhance native plant species and create diversity in vegetation structure and distribution."



National Park Service

These intentionally set fires are used only when temperature, humidity, wind speed and fuel moisture levels are within guidelines that allow the fire to burn in a controlled manner. They can also be ignited when weather and fuel conditions allow for minimized smoke impact on air quality and public health.

"While we schedule numerous prescribed fires it is important to note that they are totally dependent upon weather conditions," said Sheldon Wimmer, State BLM fire management officer. "Until conditions are right we won't go ahead, and while it is true that occasionally one of these fires may get away from us, the fact is most don't and benefits far outweigh negative impacts."

Much of this work is directly tied to the National Fire Plan and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. The National Fire Plan was developed in 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts on communities. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act seeks to reduce the threat of destructive wildfires and improve the health of native vegetation while upholding environmental standards.

For more Utah wildfire and prescribed fire information go to
www.utahfireinfo.gov.

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