

Halls Fork Prescribed Fire Project

Communication Plan

Spanish Fork Ranger District
Uinta National Forest

2004

Goals

- Achieve internal and public understanding, support and acceptance for the prescribed fire program on the Uinta National Forest.
- Achieve internal and public understanding and acceptance for the Halls Fork prescribed fire project.
- Increase internal and public awareness of the National Fire Plan.
- Increase awareness of the Four Threats to the Health of the Nation's Forests and Grasslands.

Objectives

- Communicate to internal and external affected interests the benefits of prescribed fire.
- Communicate to internal and external affected interests the rationale for implementing a prescribed fire in the Halls Fork area.
- Communicate to internal and external affected interests the role of fire in ecosystems.
- Incorporate the National Fire Plan key messages into briefing materials.
- Incorporate the Healthy Forest's key messages into briefing materials.
- Incorporate key messages from the Four Threats to the Health of the Nation's Forests and Grasslands strategy.

Project Description

The Spanish Fork Ranger District is proposing to reintroduce fire as a natural process within the Diamond Fork drainage through implementation of a prescribed burn program. Several specific locations within the drainage have been identified to receive this treatment. The program is expected to target between 2,700 and 4,400 acres annually over a three-five year period which began in 2003. The Red Hollow prescribed burn was successfully implemented in April 2003.

The Halls Fork prescribed burn is expected to treat 2500 acres. 7500 acres were analyzed including the 2500 acres proposed for treatment.

Based on an assessment, the following vegetative types were identified as being most at risk for a large scale wildfire, as well as needing manipulation to meet properly functioning conditions identified in the assessment: oak and oak/maple; sage and sage/grass; aspen/oak; Douglas-fir/White-fir, and pinyon-juniper and oak/pinyon-juniper. Aspen stands would also be regenerated through the burn program. Oak brush within the area identified to be burned is 50-80 years old. NEPA for the prescribed burn was completed in 2001.

Preliminary issues identified through development of the proposal include private land inholdings affected, establishment of noxious weeds, steep slopes and erodible soils, livestock operator concerns, wildlife habitat needs, hunting season impacts, and insect and disease interactions with fire. There are 800,000 RVDs and three grazing allotments within Diamond Fork Canyon.

Public Benefits

The project would improve public safety by reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfires. Adjacent private landowners and state and federal lands would benefit due to the increased ability to control wildfires should they occur in the area.

Public Impacts

Smoke seen in nearby counties will be within the State's clean air standards. The communities of Spanish Fork, Springville and Mapleton may experience some temporary air quality degradation. Smoke may also impact Strawberry valley and adjacent summer residences.

Roads accessing the Diamond Fork area will be closed during the burn to protect firefighters and the public.

Key Messages

- Public and firefighter safety is our number one priority (National Fire Plan).
- Many plant and wildlife species depend on fire's presence in the ecosystem to create the conditions they need to flourish.
- Without fire, many ecosystems become stagnant and lose their diversity.
- Larger, more intense fires result in more significant impacts to water, soil and air sources than a managed prescribed fire.
- Past fire management policies and unnatural accumulations of dead wood and vegetation have resulted in some fires burning hotter and larger causing safety concerns for firefighters and surrounding communities (National Fire Plan).

- Fire is an integral part of ecosystems and needs to be carefully restored to fire-adapted ecosystems (National Fire Plan).
- Hazardous fuel reduction includes prescribed fire, mechanical treatments such as thinning, and chemical applications (National Fire Plan).
- The goal is to treat landscapes in order to restore ecosystem health and function (National Fire Plan).
- A healthy forest is more resistant to severe fire, disease, and other pests such as the bark beetle. The Forest Service and other federal agencies practice active land-management in areas where it can maintain or improve the health of the land (“Communicating the Path to Healthy Forests During the 2004 Fire Season”).
- Although many forests are healthy, most are unnaturally dense and are becoming increasingly more vulnerable to severe stand-replacing fires. (Four Threats to the Health of the Nation’s Forests and Grasslands).
- Research on large catastrophic fires shows that active management in the form of thinning and prescribed burns can lessen the intensity and adverse effects of a forest fire. (Four Threats to the Health of the Nation’s Forests and Grasslands).

Communication Strategies

- **Regional Office** (see attached key contact list)
 - Objective:** Update the Regional Strategic Communications Team throughout the duration of the project.
 - Key Messages:** See above.
 - Media:** Briefing papers via email, daily updates via phone call.
 - Person Responsible:** Uinta National Forest Public Affairs staff and Incident Information Officer team.
- **Uinta National Forest**
 - Objective:** Update all employees throughout the duration of the project
 - Key Messages:** See above.
 - Media:** Briefing papers via email.
 - Person Responsible:** Uinta National Forest Public Affairs staff and Incident Information Officer team.
- **Wasatch-Cache National Forest** (see attached key contact list)
 - Objective:** Update Public Affairs staff throughout the duration of the project.
 - Key Messages:** See above.
 - Media:** Briefing papers via email.
 - Person Responsible:** Uinta National Forest Public Affairs staff and Incident Information Officer team.
- **Congressional, County Commissioners, Local Government** (see attached key contact list)
 - Objective:** Update key contacts throughout the duration of the project.
 - Key Messages:** See above.
 - Media:** Briefing papers, displays, site visits.
 - Person Responsible:** Uinta National Forest Public Affairs staff and Incident Information Officer team.

- **Local and Salt Lake Media** (see attached media list)
Objective: Provide for maximum coverage of project.
Key Messages: See above.
Media: Press packets, site visits.
Person Responsible: Uinta National Forest Public Affairs staff and Incident Information Officer team.
- **Other Agencies** (see attached key contact list)
Objective: Utilize information networks to increase awareness.
Key Messages: See above.
Media: Displays, briefing papers.
Person Responsible: Uinta National Forest Public Affairs staff and Incident Information Officer team.
- **Homeowners/Landowners/Permittees** (see attached key contact list)
Objective: Provide information to increase awareness and acceptance.
Key Messages: See above.
Media: Letter, briefing papers, site visits.
Person Responsible: Uinta National Forest Public Affairs staff and Incident Information Officer team.

Key Contacts and Affect Interests List

Contact	Name	Office	Fax	Cell	Mail
Regional Office	Erin O'Connor	801-625-5331		801-510-7079	
Uinta National Forest	All Employees				
Wasatch-Cache National Forest	Brad Shafer	801-524-3919			
Congressional Delegation	Senator Robert Bennett	801-379-2525	801-375-3432		Attn: Donna Sackett 51 S. University Ave. Suite 310 Provo, UT 84601
	Senator Orrin Hatch	801-375-7881	801-374-5005		Attn: Ron Dean 51 S. University Ave, Suite 320 Provo, UT 84601
	Congressman Chris Cannon	801-379-2500	801-379-2509		Attn: Dee Dee Rose 51 S. University Ave. Suite 310 Provo, UT 84601
	Congressman Jim Mattheson	801-524-4394			Attn: Allison Heyrend 125 S. State Ste 2311 SLC, UT 84138
	Congressman Jim Hansen	801-393-8362	801-621-7846		Attn: Sandy Kester 1017 Federal Bldg Ogden, UT 84401
Commissioners	Utah County Commission	801-370-8135	801-370-8146		Attn: Jerry Grover 100 E. Center, Suite 2300 Provo, UT 84601
Mayors	Spanish Fork	798-5000	798-5005		Dale Barney

County Councils	Wasatch	435-654-3211	435-657-0283		Val Draper 25 N. Main Street Heber, UT 84032
Dispatches	Wasatch County	435-654-1411	435-654-9975		
	Utah County Dispatch	801-343-4000	801-343-4119		
	Salt Lake City	801-799-4231			
	Salt Lake Valley Emergency Dispatch	801-840-4000			
	Utah Highway Patrol	801-234-8285	801-234-0042		
Agencies	Division of Wildlife Resources	801-491-5678	801-491-5646		Attn: Scott Root 1115 N. Main Springville, UT 84663
	Bureau of Reclamation	801-379-1000	801-379-1159		Attn: Ed Vidmar 302 E. 1860 S. Provo, UT 84606
	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service				Attn: Todd Nelsen 302 E. 1860 S. Provo, UT 84606
	US Fish and Wildlife Service				Attn: Reed Harris Lincoln Plaza 145 E. 1300 S., Suite 404 SLC, UT 84115
	Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands		801-533-4111		Attn: Barbara Gardner 1594 W North Temple, Suite 3520 SLC, UT 84114
	Provo River Water Users Assoc.				1788 N. State Street Orem, UT 84057
	UT Dept. of Environmental Quality Air Quality Division				Attn: Greg Zschaechner 150 N. 1950 W. SLC, UT 84116
Media	Park Record		435-649-4942		
	Salt Lake Tribune		801-257-8525		
	Wasatch Wave		435-654-5085		
	KSL (Utah County Bureau)		801-227-0771		
	KSTU		801-537-5335		
	KTVX		801-973-4176		
	KUTV (Utah County Bureau)		801-818-0153		
	KSL Broadcast (radio)		801-575-7625		
	Utah County Dispatch	801-343-4000	801-343-4119		
	Salt Lake City	801-799-4231			
	Salt Lake Valley Emergency Dispatch	801-840-4000			
	Utah Highway Patrol	801-234-8285	801-234-0042		
Landowner/ Homeowner/Permittee	Spanish Fork Grazing Company LLC				SF Grazing Co. LLC Attn: Kay Hansen 1738 W. 5000 S. Spanish Fork, UT 84660
	Dave Miner				935 E. 200 N. Springville, UT

				856636	
	John Childs			425 N. 1600 W. Mapleton, UT 84664	
	Grant Weight			2105 Canyon RD Springville, UT 84663	
	Kerry Hogle			197 N. 600 E. Pleasant Grove, UT 84062	
	Grant Lanny Daybell			2025 W. 800 N. Mapleton, UT 84664	
	Claudia Nelson			1021 S. Coventry Circle Orem, UT 84097	
	Oralyn Reay			123 Vidas Ave. SLC, UT 84115	
	Karen Anderson			195 N. 200 E. Spanish Fork, UT 84660	
	Lee Anderson			40 N. 300 E. Spanish Fork, UT 84660	
	Lynne Harrison			1417 Surrey Meadow Dr. South Jordan, UT 84095	
	Edith Patrick			1433 Timpanogos Dr Provo, UT 84604	
	Floyd Miner			PO Box 214 Springville, UT 84663	
	John Connelly			1904 W Teton Dr Provo, UT 84604	
	Jerry Connelly			336 W. 1050 S. Orem, UT 84057	
	Dan Connelly			636 S. 110 W. Provo, UT 84601	
	Mrs. Fred J. Diamond			492 W. Saddleback Dr. Springville, UT 84663	
	Mr. James Diamond			386 W. 100 N. Springville, UT 84663	
	Jay Clayson			5626 S. 300 W. Spanish Fork, UT 84660	
	Bryants Fork Homeowner Association President				
Media	Park Record		435-649-4942		
	Salt Lake Tribune		801-257-8525		
	Wasatch Wave		435-654-5085		
	KSL (Utah County Bureau)		801-227-0771		
	KSTU		801-537-5335		
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