



File Code: 5140

Date: September 17, 2004

Dear Key Contact:

The Uinta National Forest is planning a prescribed burn project in the Halls Fork area during October, if conditions allow implementation. The project area is located northeast of Diamond Fork, in the Spanish Fork Ranger District. The Halls Fork prescribed burn is expected to treat 2408 acres over one to two days. The purposes of this prescribed burn is to:

1. Obtain diverse vegetation stands for wildlife habitat.
2. Reduce the risk and severity of catastrophic wildfires through reduction of hazard fuels.
3. Establish effective regeneration of vegetation which helps to lower the amount of damage from insect and disease.
4. Reintroduce fire into the ecosystem.

The method used for these projects is called "prescribed burning" because the areas will only be burned when certain pre-planned conditions exist. Air temperature, relative humidity, fuel moisture, and wind speed and direction are some of the requirements that must be met before burning begins. Prescribed fires will be ignited when fuel moistures and weather forecasts allow for good smoke dispersal away from population centers, but smoke drift can be expected to linger in some areas of communities during the evening and early morning hours. These conditions are difficult to predict, which may result in a relatively short timeframe for contacting you and other interested individuals.

Public safety and the safety of fire personnel in and around the project area is of the utmost importance. Therefore, temporary road closures during these projects may be necessary. Informed personnel will be stationed near the project area to keep the public informed during implementation. Personnel staffing this area will have up-to-date information on the project and related impacts.

An open house will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2004, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., at the Provo Marriott Hotel, Birch Room, 101 West 100 North, Provo. Forest Service specialists will be available to present information and answer questions regarding the project. We invite you to attend to learn more about the project.

If you, or any organizations within your community, would like additional information prior to that time, please contact Loyal Clark at the Uinta National Forest Supervisor's Office, 801-342-5117 (office), or 801-368-5871 (cell).

Sincerely,



PETER W. KARP  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures