

# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest**

### **Logan Ranger District**

#### **1500 East, Highway 89**

#### **Logan, Utah 84321-4373**

---



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Kathy Jo Pollock 801-558-8016

### **LOGAN RANGER DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT SADDLE CREEK PRESCRIBED FIRE**

Logan, Utah, May 29, 2008 – Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Fire Management personnel are planning to implement the Saddle Creek prescribed fire, located on the Logan Ranger District. Depending on weather conditions, lighting of the 750 acre prescribed fire located 14 miles East of Logan (see attached map) could take place from June 2, 2008 through the end of June 2008.

The purpose of this project is rejuvenation and restoration of vegetation for increased diversity of habitat and wildlife species, such as elk, moose and mule deer and to restore and maintain age-class diversity among sage brush dominated stands and associated shrub-dominated communities. Treatments such as these also help to decrease the potential for high intensity wildfires.

Due to the absence of fire, historic grazing, and heavy use by big game, aspen regeneration has been hampered throughout much of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. An estimated 34% of the Aspen stands on the forest are becoming decadent and are deteriorating and need to be regenerated. Other vegetative communities, such as mixed conifers and in some areas Gambel oak and sagebrush, are replacing them. Aspen communities provide important habitat for various birds and mammals and are a significant portion of the mule deer diet. Aspen stands also provide nutrient-rich litter, which decays rapidly, forming a substantial humus layer, which reduces runoff and provides excellent soil protection.

Jennefer Parker, Logan District Ranger, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, states that “prescribed fire is one of the proven tools for vegetation regeneration and hazardous fuels reduction as per the revised Wasatch-Cache National Forest Management Plan.” “To meet resource and safety concerns, prescribed fires must only occur when a specific set of conditions are met” said Parker. “These conditions include air, soil and vegetation moisture levels, temperatures, wind directions and speeds, smoke dispersal and expected fire behavior” stated Parker. The prescribed fire will only be ignited when fuel moistures and weather conditions will allow the smoke to dissipate or drift away from communities near the burn area.

Qualified fire personnel will use hand crews and a helicopter to ignite fire in the designated area and will monitor the fire until it is completely extinguished.

Forest users can expect delays along the roads in the area during the day of the burns and can expect to smell smoke. Some smoke can be expected to linger during the evening and early morning hours. The burn areas will be closed to the public on the day of the burns.

####

**MEDIA NOTE:** IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING PRESENT DURING THE BURN, OR NEED FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT **KATHY JO POLLOCK** AT (801) 558-8016. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT YOU WILL NEED APPROPRIATE FIRE RETARDANT CLOTHING (NOMEX) AND PROPER FOOTWEAR (LEATHER BOOTS UP PAST THE ANKLE) IF YOU PLAN TO ACCESS THE FIRE AREA.

