

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is there a need for Wildland Fire Use for Resource Benefits?

The objective of this program is to use "Nature's" ignitions to further an essential ecological process.

Won't Wildland Fire Use be dangerous for members of the public?

No. The area where a fire is burning will be well signed or access will be restricted so people can enjoy other parts of the public lands without being threatened.

Will smoke degrade the visibility in the surrounding area?

Smoke is a natural part of fire-adapted ecosystems during fire season. The USFS works closely with State and local agencies to monitor effects on population centers and mitigate adverse health effects.

Why do you allow a fire to burn and ruin the beauty of the landscape?

Naturally burning fire created the beauty and diversity of the landscape and will continue to maintain it over time.



Wire Fence WFU 2004

For More Information

For information regarding the Wildland Fire Use Program, the professionals who manage these fires, and the program history contact your local federal land management agency or visit:

<http://fs.fed.us/r4/ahsley/fire/>

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/fireuse/wildland_fire_use/use_index.html

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/>

Ashley National Forest
Fire and Aviation Management
Prescribed Fire and Wildland Fire Use
355 North Vernal Avenue
Vernal, UT 83078-1703
(435) 789-1181



Sheep Creek WFU 2004

WILDLAND FIRE USE

Allowing Fire To Play Its Natural Role



Sheep Creek WFU 2005

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Forest Service
Intermountain Region
Ashley National Forest
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Cow Hollow WFU 2005

What is Wildland Fire Use?

For centuries lightning-caused fires have created vegetative diversity, such as a mixture of wildlife habitats, while eliminating heavy fuel accumulation. Wildland fire use can be managed to burn in a natural way to provide benefits to the resources until fall rain or snow storms put it out. Wildland Fires are a fact of western life - a natural component of the ecosystem in which we live.

Wildland Fire Use is the management of naturally-ignited fires to achieve resource benefits, where fire is a major component of the ecosystem. Many natural resource values can be enhanced by allowing fire to play its natural role where private property and social values can be protected.

How does the Ashley National Forest decide where Wildland Fire Use is allowed?

The National Forest Management Act directs all U.S.D.A., Forest Service Fire Management Plans to be prepared and implemented while directing each Forest Service unit to utilize the appropriate management of all wildland fires including: Wildland Fire Use and Prescribed Fire, for maintaining ecosystem health and values.

A Fire Management Plan is a strategic plan, which defines a program to manage Wildland and Prescribed Fires. The Plan is supplemented by operational plans such as preparedness plans, preplanned dispatch plans, prescribed fire plans, and prevention plans.

Successful Wildland Fire Use Fires on the Ashley National Forest:

- ☞ Pinto Ridge, 2002, 345 Acres
- ☞ Squaw Basin, 2002, 2 Acres
- ☞ Swift Creek, 2003, 420 Acres
- ☞ Wire Fence, 2004, 1.5 Acres
- ☞ Moon Lake, 2004, .1 Acres
- ☞ Castle Rock, 2005, .1 Acres
- ☞ Cow Hollow, 2005, 330 Acres
- ☞ Timber Canyon 2, 2005, .5 Acre
- ☞ Miners Gulch, 2005, .1 Acre
- ☞ Sheep Creek, 2005, 3,500 Acres
- ☞ Jo's, 2007, .26 Acre
- ☞ Cracker, 2007, .25 Acre



Swift Creek WFU 2003



Swift Creek WFU 2003



Sheep Creek WFU 2005

What are Natural Fires?

A natural fire is a fire started by lightning.

Can we use fire started by humans for Wildland Fire Use?

Human-caused ignitions are declared an unwanted wildland fire and will receive an appropriate management response using the most cost-effective means to protect lives and property and to preserve natural resources.

Objectives for allowing Wildland Fire Use:

1. Provide for the health and safety of firefighters and the public.
2. Maintain the natural ecosystems of a given area and allow fire to play its role in those ecosystems.
3. Reduce the risks and consequences of unwanted wildfire.