

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FOREST SERVICE RELEASES BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE REPORT
FOR THE CORNER CANYON FIRE**

Salt Lake City, Utah, October 7, 2008 - The Forest Service has released its report on the watershed impacts of the Corner Canyon Fire which burned 808 acres in August 2008. The "Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Assessment" describes the effects of the Corner Canyon Fire on the land, post-fire threats of concern such as flooding and debris flows, and the emergency treatments planned for National Forest System lands to address these threats.

BAER is a Forest Service program with the goal of protecting life, property, water quality and deteriorated ecosystems from further damage from flooding and other natural events after a fire. A Forest Service BAER Team was convened to assess the entire Corner Canyon Fire area. The Team met with representatives of Salt Lake County, Draper City and other local, state and federal agencies to discuss assessment findings, values at risk and treatment options.

Treatment procedures include:

- Wood straw mulching in combination with seeding 140 acres of National Forest System lands affected by the fire. This treatment is intended to reduce soil erosion losses from small thunderstorm or rapid snowmelt events in the next year by increasing effective ground cover up to 50%.

The mulching treatment is scheduled to begin on Saturday, October 25, 2008. The wood mulch and seed will be applied by helicopter to about 140 acres that burned at high intensity. Helicopter operations will be staged in the Aintree Cove Area and will run during the daytime with continuous flight operations for up to a three week period. Also, trucks will be delivering straw to the staging area which will increase traffic throughout the neighborhoods. Residents in the Steeplechase and Carolina Hills neighborhoods maybe impacted by the noise from helicopter operations during daytime hours and the increased truck traffic.

- Install approximately 50 gully relief trenches, spaced at about 150 feet, along a 1.5 mile long section along the ridgeline south of Cherry Canyon. Each trench will range from 75 to 125 feet long and the bottoms will be stabilized with native seed and erosion control blankets.

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- Install 1,500 feet of temporary, wire reinforced silt fence sediment traps in drainages above homes located between Bear Creek and Cherry Creek Canyons. These traps will be maintained, by Forest Service crews, until the ground cover and vegetation have recovered to the point where flood potential has returned to approximately prefire levels. These traps are specifically designed to retain sediment, but not water, from thunderstorms and snowmelt events for approximately one year and will be removed during the fall of 2010.
- National Forest System lands will be monitored for invasion by noxious weeds. Noxious weeds compete with native vegetation which affects the health and functioning of the watershed.

The Forest Service has authority to treat only National Forest System land. Local agencies and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) devise and oversee treatments on private and non-federal public lands. While treatments on National Forest System lands will help to reduce the impacts of the fire following precipitation events, the treatments will not completely mitigate the effects of the fire, even in combination with the many treatments underway or planned downstream.

The Corner Canyon Fire BAER report is available on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r4/uwc

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