



Richfield Interagency Fire Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 21, 2005

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Choke Cherry Fire in Middle and South Forks of South Creek

Started September 9

Cause: Lightning

Location: 10 miles southeast of Beaver, 9 miles west of Circleville, and a mile to the east of Chokecherry Peak

Reported September 14

Acres: 350 apx.

In the drainage of the Middle and South Forks of South Creek there is a wildland use fire that is burning. A wildland use fire is a fire that was started by lightning and allowed to continue to burn naturally. The weather, topography and vegetation have determined how far and fast the fire has spread. It is predicted that it will not grow much more, but still expect to see smoke in the afternoon's from continual burning within the fire perimeter.

Hunters planning to access the upper areas of South Creek and north of Battle Mountain should avoid the fire area. Fire fighters are observing the fire on a daily basis. The fire is burning the organic matter under the trees and small groups of trees when the fire is able to move into the crowns.

This year the Fishlake National Forest has had eight Wildland Fire Use fires. These fires have burnt nearly 1,800 acres. Allowing these fires to burn is cost efficient, keeps firefighters available for priority fire suppression efforts elsewhere and helps lessen the risk of having a catastrophic wildfire. The Chokecherry fire will be beneficial to the area by: removing the dead and down trees, improving wildlife habitat, regenerating new vegetation, and providing for firefighter and public safety.

For more information on the Chokecherry Wildland Fire Use fire, please call 435-896-1032, Monday through Friday 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-5:00.

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