

NEWS RELEASE

**Richfield Interagency Fire Center
1830 South Industrial Park Road
Richfield, Utah 84701**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Kent Chappell: 435-425-9578
DATE: July 18, 2005 RIFC: 435-896-8404

FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST TO CONDUCT PRESCRIBED FIRE

Loa, UT.

July 19 through July 21 is the anticipated date for a prescribed fire southeast of Torrey being conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. Depending on weather conditions, approximately 250 acres will be burned using hand ignition methods. The project area is located between the Pleasant Creek Road on the north, Utah State Road #12 on the east and south, boulder high top rim to the west. Pleasant Creek, Behanin Creek, Oak Creek and Durfey Creek are drainages covered by the approved prescribed fire plan.

This burn is the continuing installment of the 8,055 acre Oak Creek Aspen Prescribed Fire. The project began in 1997 with 800 acres treated to date. When conditions allow the Loa/Teasdale Ranger District hopes to complete the project with in the next three years.

The overlying objective of the project is to reinitiate the role of fire in this ecosystem. Past prescribed burn projects with similar vegetation composition within the Fishlake National Forest have shown to improve the health and vigor of desirable vegetative species, which will increase the amount of forage for wildlife and livestock. The prescribed fire will break up the continuity of available fuels and reduce the fuel loading while at the same time increasing the amount of native grasses and the re-sprouting of shrubs.

Gayle Sorenson, Assistant Fire Management Officer for the Central Utah Fire Interagency Fire Organization said, "We are watching the conditions closely for a window of opportunity to conduct the burn."

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