



News Release

Fishlake National Forest



For Immediate Release

Date: September 21, 2005

Contact: Tom Suywn

Phone: 435-979-6427

Fire Update On Wildland Fire Use Fire On Fillmore Ranger District

South Fork Wildland Fire Use is located 4 miles east of Fillmore. The fire was ignited by lightning on September 9, 2005. It has burned 570 acres. Over the last few days smoke has increased due to fire behavior activity. Smoke from this fire may be visible for the next few weeks, depending on weather conditions and fire behavior. Fire activity and the resulting smoke are generally greatest during the afternoons when temperatures are at their highest and humidity is at the lowest. Due to the wetting rains and cooler temperatures the fire will burn itself out.

The Fillmore Ranger District of the Fishlake National Forest has pre-identified this area to be managed as a Wildland Fire Use (WFU) area. A Wildland Fire Use is a fire that has been naturally ignited in a pre-determined area under specific management guidelines. The South Fork fire will be monitored daily and fire managers will review the progress of the fire and at times take appropriate suppression actions in order to keep this fire in the pre-identified boundaries. By managing this WFU fire, there is a benefit to the natural resources in reducing the hazardous down and dead fuels, improving wildlife habitat, regenerating new vegetation, and providing for firefighter and public safety.

This time of year has conditions more favorable than in the middle of the summer when a catastrophic wildfire may occur. The fire has burned a mosaic pattern as to break up the continuity of the fuels and create natural fuel breaks in the landscape. It has also under-burned the fine fuels (leaves and needles) on the forest floor to reduce fuel loading and release nutrients into the soil, without burning and killing the desired tree species in the area. The fire will be allowed to burn under these cool weather conditions to accomplish the objectives in hazardous fuels reduction.

The fire is being monitored by cooperating agencies from the Central Utah Interagency Fire Agency. There are suppression crews on hand if needed. At this time there are no structures threatened, and no road closures. Fire officials ask the public be careful when in this area. This will assure public and firefighter safety.

For fire information on this fire and statewide fire information please visit www.utahfireinfo.gov

end####