

Prescribed Fire

LOGAN RANGER DISTRICT
FALL 2014 SPRING 2015
UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE
NATIONAL FOREST



Aerial Ignition on Hells Hollow October 2012

*Blacksmith Fork & North Rich
Prescribed Fires To Enhance
Wildlife Habitat & Reduce
Hazardous Fuels*

If you would like more information about the prescribed fires planned on the Logan Ranger District please visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/uwcnf> or call (435) 755-3620



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Hells Hollow Terra Torch October 2012

PRESCRIBED FIRES

Prescribed fires, which are planned ignitions are just one tool used by fire managers to improve forest health by reducing hazardous fuels, improving the quality of watersheds and wildlife habitat.

A prescribed fire only occurs when the temperature, humidity, wind speed and fuel moisture are within the prescribed fire plan objectives. Prescribed fires will be ignited when predicted weather and fuel conditions allow for minimized smoke impact on the air quality and the public's health. Prescribed fires can be ignited by hand, using drip torches or by air using helicopters to drop incendiary devices.

In order to restore fire to its natural role in forests and rangeland, we ignite prescribed fires in the spring and fall when weather conditions allow for lower intensity burning.

Specific objectives may be to reduce the fuels and/or create a mosaic pattern in the vegetation to create cover, forage, and browse areas for wildlife. It can also, enhance native plant species and create diversity in vegetation structure and distribution.

We know that fire is essential to the health of our forests and rangelands. Since conditions in many areas are conducive to large, severe wildfires, and because so many people now live in or near forest and rangelands, we need fires to burn in a more controlled way. By igniting prescribed fires, we can maximize the chance that they will burn on our terms with acceptable effects.

BLACKSMITH FORK PRESCRIBED FIRE

Depending on weather condition, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest fire personnel are planning to burn 6,097 acres of aspen, brush, conifer and grass within the Blacksmith Fork prescribed fire area. Of this area 1,937 acres are planned for implementation anytime between September through November 2013. The implementation of this project will be accomplished over a two to four year period. The burn area is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Logan, Utah and 10 miles northeast of Hyrum, Utah

The purpose of the burn is to restore and maintain an age-class diversity among aspen for the benefit of wildlife species and to improve forest health by reducing hazardous fuels to decrease the potential for high intensity wildfires.

HELLS HOLLOW PRESCRIBED FIRE

In October, 2012, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest fire personnel, in partnership with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), and Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, successfully completed treatment of the final 5,763 acres of the Hells Hollow prescribed fire. In October 2010 approximately 2,100 acres, and in September 2009, approximately 2,010 acres were successfully treated. All objectives of the prescribed fire have been met. Objectives include regeneration of aspen stands for the benefit of wildlife, such as elk, moose and mule deer; and the restoration and maintenance of age-class diversity among sagebrush, is also improves watershed conditions and forest health.



SADDLE CREEK PRESCRIBED FIRE

The Saddle Creek 700 acre prescribed fire and 50 acres of mechanical treatment were successfully implemented in the spring and fall of 2008. The treatment in this area has reduced the hazardous fuels and created a diversity of age class sagebrush and aspen. It also provides modified fuel patterns for more effective, timely, and safe suppression efforts for future wildfires and improves wildlife habitat.

NORTH RICH FUTURE PRESCRIBED FIRE

The North Rich prescribed fire consists of one burn unit totaling approximately 120 acres of aspen, mixed conifers and sagebrush. The burn unit is located approximately 30 miles east of Logan, Utah and about 5 miles west of Garden Valley, Utah.

The purpose of the burn is to regenerate aspen and sagebrush communities to improve rangeland and enhance wildlife habitat. Additional benefits include improving overall health of aspen to lower the risk of insects, disease and the reduction of hazardous fuels.



Hand Ignition Hells Hollow, October 2012

These prescribed fires or planned ignitions are part of a multi-year plan that reintroduces fire back into the ecosystem for re-vegetation and to reduce hazardous fuels near communities at risk as part of the revised Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Management Plan.

The majority of the brush communities in the burn areas are approaching late seral stages due to a lack of natural disturbances. In addition, grazing, fire suppression, and other management practices have changed the forest structure and composition, causing a decline in the ecological health of the forests.

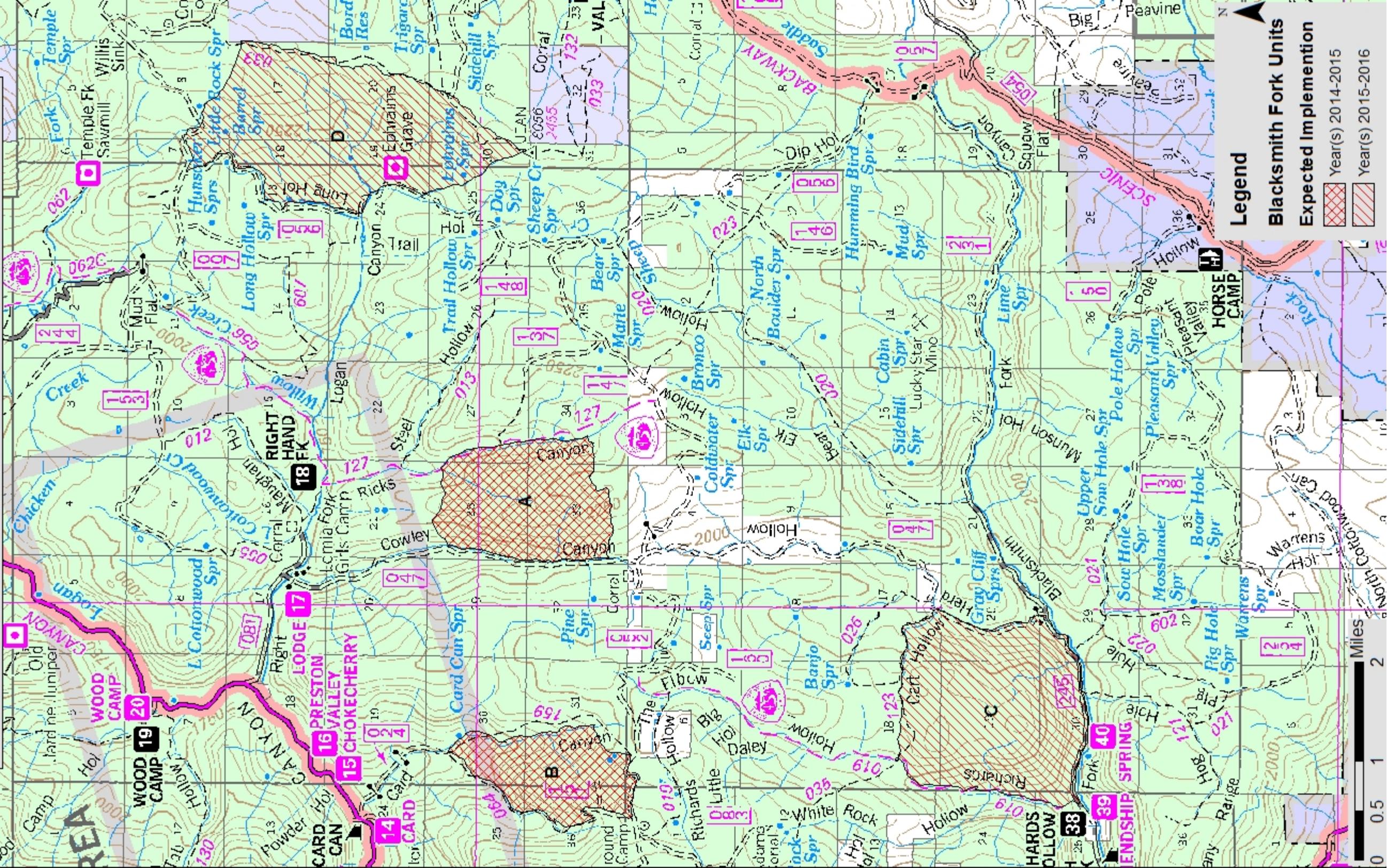
Prescribed fire provides for ecosystem maintenance and restoration consistent with land uses and historic fire regimes. Fuels are managed to reduce the risk of damage to private property and to provide for public and firefighter safety.



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Blacksmith Fork Prescribed Fire Project



Legend

Blacksmith Fork Units

Expected Implementation

Year(s) 2014-2015

Year(s) 2015-2016