

Prescribed Fire

HEBER KAMAS RANGER DISTRICT
SPRING/FALL 2015 - 2016
UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST



Ponderosa Pine Restoration Burn Fall 2014

*Prescribed Burns To Increase
Aspen & Mountain Brush Age
Class Diversity And To Enhance
Wildlife Habitat &
& Reduce Hazardous Fuels*

If you would like more information about
The Prescribed Fires planned on the
Heber/ Kamas Ranger District, Please Visit
<http://fs.usda.gov/uwcnf> or call (435) 783-4338



USDA FOREST SERVICE
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Example of broadcast burn Ponderosa3/2015

Ponderosa Pine Restoration

Fire personnel plan to burn the lower portion of burn unit 6 totally 165 acres anytime between Monday, September 28, 2105 through November 2015 weather depending. The prescribed fire area will be closed to all uses for public safety on the day of the burn and possibly the day after.

Smoke may temporarily impact visibility on the Mirror Lake Highway (SR150) and may also drift towards populated areas. Firefighters will use only hand held drip torches to treat the area and will patrol and monitor the burn until weather conditions eliminate the need to do so, or the fire is declared out.

Burn units 1, 2, 3, 5 and a portion of 6 were successfully treated in the fall of 2014/spring of 2015. The project encompasses approximately 3,300 acres located generally from Co-op Creek on the west to just east of Rock Creek and Soapstone campground to the east, all on the north side of the Mirror Lake Highway (SR150) along the upper Provo River.

The primary objectives of this burn is to reduce the existing wildland fire hazard and to reduce the threat to old-growth ponderosa pine ecosystem by removing encroaching tree species and accumulated ground fuel, thus reducing potential negative effects from future wildland fire and restoring fire-adaptive ecosystems. This is one of the few native ponderosa pine stands on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Prescribed fire is one tool used by Forest Managers to reduce hazardous fuels, improve wildlife habitat, or to impact change within a watershed.

A prescribed fire only occurs in a "window" when the temperature, humidity, wind speed and fuel moisture are within the prescribed fire plan objectives. When the window is "open," fuels specialists complete a go-no-go checklist to ensure all aspects of the fire can be accomplished. Managers will only ignite prescribed fires when predicted weather and fuel conditions allow for minimized smoke impact on air quality and public 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 slow, low intensity burning to protect the soil. Specific management 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. Prescribed fire can also mimic naturally occurring fire, enhance native plant species and create diversity in vegetation structure and distribution.

We know that fire is essential to the health of our forest and rangelands. Since conditions in many areas are conducive to large, severe wildland fires, and because so many people 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.

Cedar Hollow I I Prescribed Fire

Successfully treated in the Spring of 2005



These prescribed burns are the first phases 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 Wasatch-Cache National Forest Management Plan.

The majority of the brush communities in the burn areas are approaching late seral stages due to 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.

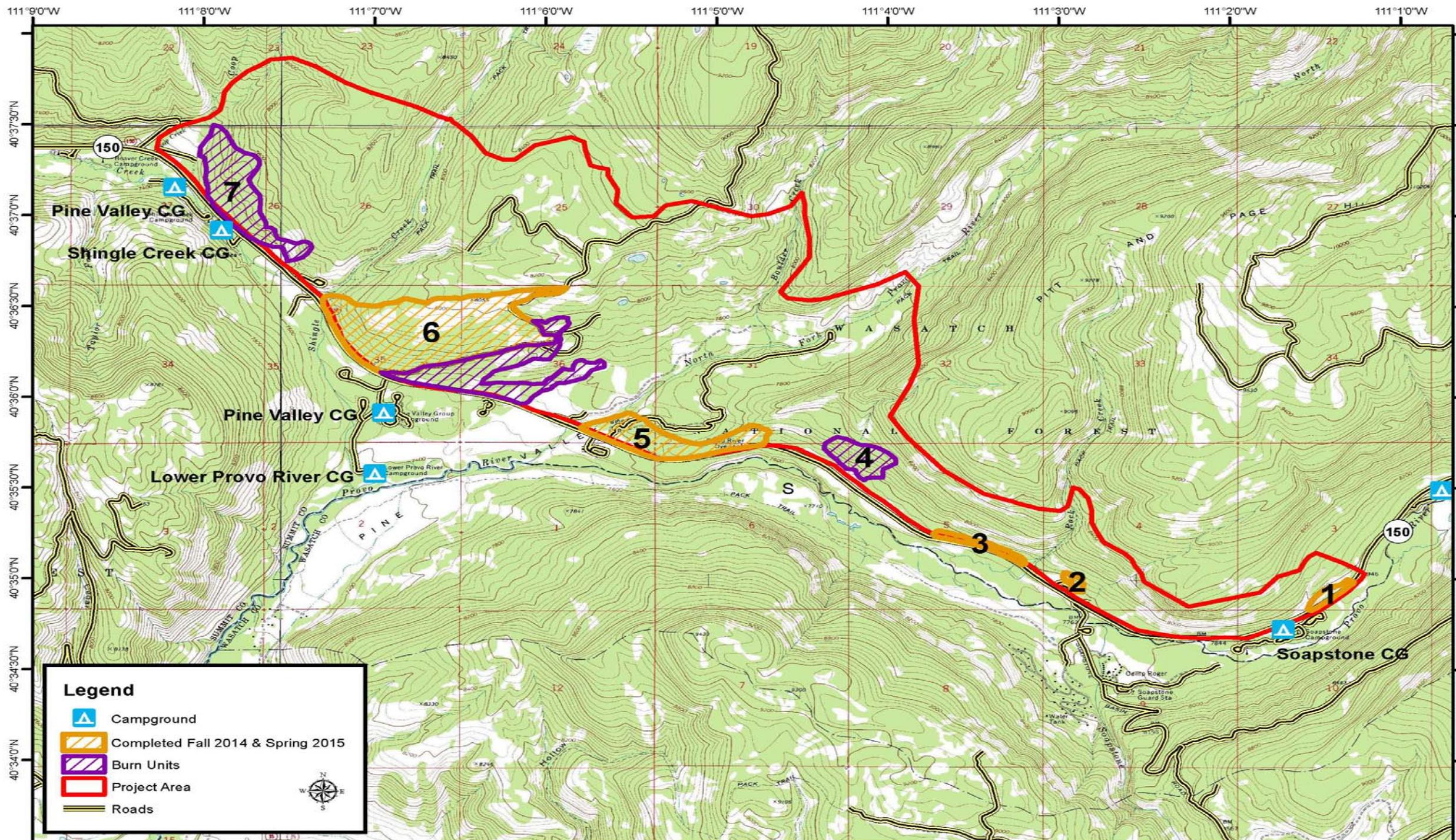
Prescribed fires provide for ecosystem maintenance and restoration consistent with land uses and historic fire regimes. Fuels are managed to reduce the risk of damage to private property and to provide for public and firefighter safety by lowering the risk of wildfires.



Aerial Ignition Upper Setting Prescribed Burn

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Legend

-  Campground
-  Completed Fall 2014 & Spring 2015
-  Burn Units
-  Project Area
-  Roads

Ponderosa Restoration Prescribed Fire Project

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles