

Prescribed Fire

HEBER KAMAS RANGER DISTRICT

SPRING/FALL 2012-2013

UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST



Cedar Hollow II 2005

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.

Ponderosa Pine Restoration

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 are 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.



Hand Ignition on Upper Setting Burn

Cedar Hollow I I Prescribed Fire

In the spring of 2005 the Cedar Hollow II prescribed fire area was successfully treated and the re-generation of aspen and brush communities has been good. There have also been no adverse effects to the area such as soil loss or the expansion of the noxious weed population.



Cedar Hollow I Before the 1999 Prescribed Fire

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 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 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.



Cedar Hollow I After the 1999 Prescribed Burn

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Aerial Ignition Upper Setting Burn

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

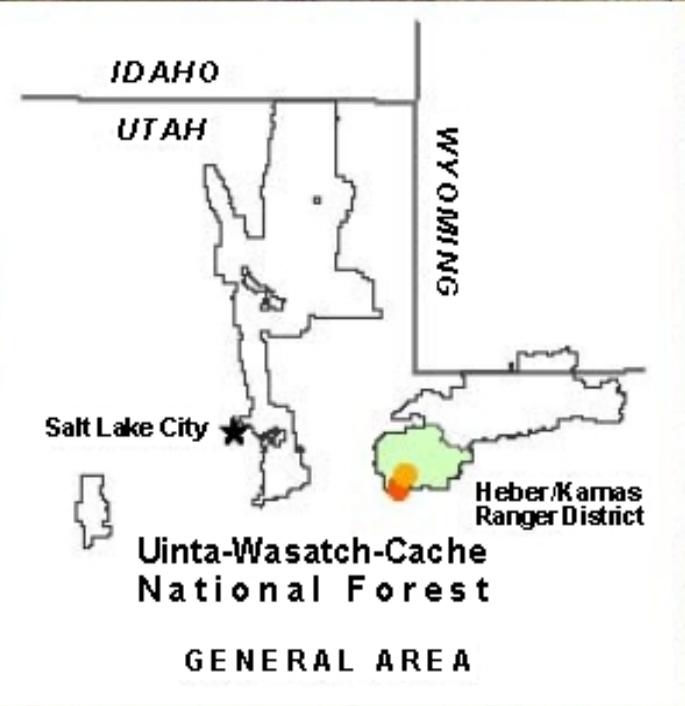


**Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Heber/Kamas Ranger District
Prescribed Fire Projects
Spring/Fall Starting 2012**

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

**Ponderosa Pine
Restoration**

**Cedar Hollow II
(Treated)**



The 1993 Visitor Map is being used as the background/
location information. Land status information is current as
of 1992. Please contact the Forest for more current information.

