



Supervisor's Office
Ashley National Forest
355 North Vernal Avenue
Vernal Utah 84078
Voice: 435-789-1181
Email: ljhaynes@fs.fed.us
Web: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/ashley>

News Release

Media Contact: Louis Haynes
435-781-5105
ljhaynes@fs.fed.us



September 21, 2017

Ashley National Forest Flaming Gorge-Vernal Ranger District Prepares for Fall/Winter Prescribed Burning

Vernal, Utah ... The Flaming Gorge-Vernal Ranger District will be treating areas of the forest using Prescribed Fire beginning October 1st.

The use of prescribed fire is weather dependent and work on these projects will continue until as long as weather conditions are favorable.

North Flank: this project is looking to utilize fire to remove dead and diseased stands of Engelmann Spruce and Doug Fir to the west of Manilla. This will allow more rapid regeneration of brush and Aspen stands that will provide greater forage to support larger wild game populations by opening the areas to the sky and releasing nutrients beneficial to plant growth, specifically nitrogen and organic carbons. In addition, the project will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire during dry conditions by consuming the large diameter dead materials. Consumption of the large dead and down material will also prevent the soil from turning acidic through the decomposition of large amounts of woody debris in a small area.

DI Ponderosa: this project will utilize fire to remove accumulations of understory fuels that may lead to crown fires in adverse conditions. The benefits of this project are reduced risk of catastrophic wildfire, regeneration of wildlife forage, and improving stand health. Wildfire risk will be reduced through consumption of available fuels and increasing the distance from the ground to the lowest branches in the canopy. Wildlife forage will be regenerated by the consumption of old decadent plants which will encourage new vigorous growth. Aiding both regeneration and overall stand health will be the release of nutrients and an increase of available water through a reduction of non-fire resistant species such as Juniper that draw large amounts of water from the soil. Areas to be treated are: Dowd Mountain, Ute Mountain, Pines and Acres.

Red Cloud Loop Piles: this project will use fire to remove piles along the Red Cloud Loop Road. The area along the road was thinned over the last few summers to improve visual appeal, increase visibility and reduce the risk of wildfire by removing available fuels. The piles will now be burned to remove the accumulated fuels and release nutrients.

-30-

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer'

