

**Uintah Highlands Prescribed Burn
Ogden Ranger District, Wasatch-Cache National Forest
2007**



Project Description: This prescribed burn was conducted on the Ogden Ranger District, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, just above the city of Uintah, Utah. The burn was conducted in oakbrush vegetation in order to reduce hazardous fuels and create a diversity of age classes within the oakbrush. The effort provides for more effective, timely, and safe suppression efforts for future wildfires, enhanced wildlife habitat, and increased age-class diversity in vegetation.

This project involved using hand tools to construct a fire line, a containment line made by clearing brush and grasses to hold a wildland fire, on the lower edge of the burn unit, then hand lighting using drip torches. The burn was planned and implemented with close involvement of the Uintah Highlands community, who had recently completed a community wildfire protection plan with Utah Department of Natural Resources and the Weber County Fire Warden. The community fire plan identified adjacent national forest land as desirable for fuels treatment. The community has improved defensible space around many residences by cutting and chipping oakbrush adjacent to the houses, with assistance from the State. Implementation of this burn involved Weber County testing a reverse 911 phone systems, where adjacent residents were notified by an automatic calling system about prescribed burn plans. Also as part of the reverse 911 test, two Boy Scout projects identified residents that might need evacuation assistance. Local (Layton City and Weber County) fire department engines were partners in implementation of the burn along with the Uinta National Forest and Bureau of Land Management.

Implementation Plan and Accomplishment to date: Hand line was constructed in early spring 2006, using a Utah state crew. The prescribed burn was accomplished March 2007. Fire spread within the burn unit, eventually blackening about 290 acres of the approximately 400-acre burn unit. This met the stated project objective of burning 40-60 percent of the oakbrush within the unit. The affected area was determined to be about 639 acres. Immediate post-burn monitored showed desired Gambel oak top-kill was achieved, fine fuels appear to have been reduced, and soil cover maintained at desirable levels.

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