Forest Service News Release

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FLAMING GORGE RANGER DISTRICT TO CONDUCT PRESCRIBED BURNS THIS FALL

Vernal, Utah, October 2, 2024 — Ashley National Forest fire management personnel are planning to conduct prescribed burns on the Flaming Gorge Ranger District this fall as weather and fuel conditions allow.

The first prescribed fires planned are in the Greendale Junction, Red Canyon, Death Valley, and Dowd Mountain areas within burn units 1, 8, 10, 13 , and 15, targeting approximately 2000 acres. Consideration of burning in nearby areas within units 14, 16, and 17 will be made if the required conditions within the initial units are not available or if resources and opportunities permit. Crews will complete the work when ground fuels are still dry enough to burn effectively, while having enough existing and forecasted moisture to limit fire spread to other areas.

The prescribed fire is part of the "D1 Ponderosa Pine Maintenance and Fuels Reduction Project", which consists primarily of Ponderosa Pine and understory and completed twice-yearly in differing locations. Its purpose is to return fire to the environment to restore healthy ecosystems and reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires. A healthy ecosystem is more resistant to severe fire, disease, and insect infestations. Other specific objectives for the project include maintaining or improving the health of ponderosa pine stands and to maintain or improve sagebrush, browse and forage species to benefit wildlife.

Prescribed fires only occur when a specific set of conditions are met. These conditions include air, soil and vegetation moisture levels, temperatures, wind direction and speed, smoke dispersal, and expected fire behavior. Fire personnel will ignite the fires using a helicopter, or drone and hand lighting. Engine, hotshot, and/or hand crews will monitor the fire until it is completely extinguished. Smoke will likely be visible. The prescribed burning is expected to cause minimal impact to areas or activities outside of the burn units.

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