

As we enter a new year and an aggressive schedule of fuels management in Rich County the Salt Lake BLM Fuels program wanted to share the successes of 2008 and our plans for 2009. Looking back on the sheer volume of hazardous fuels reduction projects needed can be a bit overwhelming: encroachment of juniper and cheatgrass on historical healthy rangelands, the wildland-urban interface fire problem, and the complex economic, environmental and societal challenges.

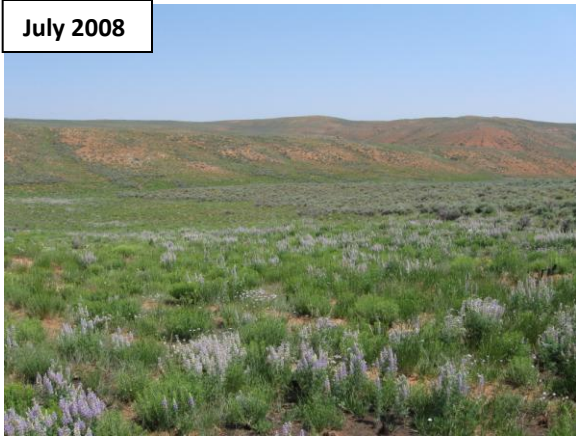
Success at Sage Hollow

July 2007



Before Prescribed Fire:
 Increased Fire Danger from abundant Fuels
 Initial loss of understory vegetation

July 2008



After Prescribed Fire:
 Mosaic of sagebrush lessens fire intensity
 Opened interspaces for native grasses and forbs

2008 Projects	Where	Treatment	Acres
Laketown	Laketown	Slash, Pile of Juniper Cover and Prescribed Fire	75
Aspen Regeneration	Otter Creek	Conifer removal	34
Lamborn Project	North of Randolph	Goats to thin sagebrush	350
Woodruff/Longhill	West of Woodruff	Tebuthiron and Mowing of and Slashing of Juniper	4,000

- Prescribed fire is used to mimic periodic fire occurrence which maintains healthy ecosystems.
- Mechanical treatments are utilized in reducing the hazards posed by wildfire by reducing fuel density.
- Contracting opportunities abound- over 80% of the work of is out-sourced.

With your help in 2008, we were able to achieve many important goals established through the 10-year Collaborative Strategy and Implementation Plan. The primary goal of this plan seeks to actively respond to severe wildfires and their impacts on communities while ensuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future.

Rich County has nine Communities at Risk from wildfire. Laketown is a community in Rich County that has formulated a community wildfire protection plan. The mayor, residents and commissioners have been proactive community implementing a fire plan in conjunction with the State of Utah and the BLM. For their efforts, the community was awarded a National Fire Plan grant to mitigate fuels on areas identified surrounding the community.



The Otter Creek project aims to assist aspen regeneration from the encroachment of conifers.

Looking forward to 2009, we've already hit the ground with some exciting new projects. On BLM lands, close to Laketown we've started project preparation for the Otter Creek project, an aspen rejuvenation effort to decrease the conifer and improve the health of aspen groves. Another project close to Laketown will include a prescribed fire treatment this winter. The junipers in the area were slashed, piled and covered throughout the summer of 2008 in preparation for the burn. Monitoring effort at the Sage Hollow project will continue into the New Year with each year's growth we're expecting even better

response from understory vegetation as time goes on.

Yet another private and public partnership we're proud of in Rich County includes the innovative use of private goats on public lands to reduce fuels build-up. The namesake Lamborn project consists of up to 2500 goats belonging to Dave and Alex Lamborn of Randolph allowed on 350 acres of public land. The goats started munching their way through the heavy fuels beginning last fall.

Thank you for being an integral part of the West Desert District's foundation of support. From all of us here at the fire program, please accept our deep appreciation for your assistance in the shared success. We look forward to working with you in the future.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us here at the BLM, West Desert District Office at 801.977.4328 or http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/salt_lake/fire/fire_and_fuels_management.html.