



BLM News



Bureau of Land Management • Salt Lake Field Office • 2370 South 2300 West • Salt Lake City, Utah 84119
www.ut.blm.gov

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Erin Darboven, 801-977-4328
(c)801-243-0004**

**BLM FIRE OFFICIALS TO IMPLEMENT PRESCRIBED FIRE
IN TOOELE COUNTY
LOCATED NEAR DUGWAY**

Salt Lake City, UT...September 30, 2004...Fire Officials of the Salt Lake Field Office (SLFO), BLM in coordination with county and state fire experts intend to light a prescribed burn, called Salt Desert Shrub, located near Dugway Proving Grounds in Tooele County. The burn is aimed toward reducing a continuous stand of highly flammable cheat grass in order to reduce suppression costs, improve firefighter safety and enhance property protection in the west desert.

Currently cheat grass provides an abundant fine fuels base that allows wildland fires to burn quickly. The Salt Lake Field Office is initiating this prescribed fire in an effort to create a grid of less flammable vegetation strips (Green Strips) 300 ft. wide throughout the area to break up the fuels which will reduce the size and complexity of wildland fires in the area. Proposed fuel reduction projects such as Salt Desert Shrub are part of implementing the National Fire Plan.

When finished, the Salt Desert Shrub project will have created approximately 41 miles of Green Strip, along six sections of roads throughout the area. The first step is burning a black strip 100' to 300' wide along the length of road in each unit. The units have been prioritized and scheduled to be burned over several years according to need and funding. Under ideal conditions burning occurs before the cheatgrass seeds drop. Next the strips will be treated with an herbicide to retard or still cheat grass growth. The area then will be drill seeded with a mixture of native and non-native species.

The resulting Green Strips would provide the following: safer fire suppression; reduction of the size and complexity of wildland fires in the area; control barriers for future hazard fuel reduction projects and more available forage for wildlife and livestock.

Information and links about wildland fire in Utah can be found on the Internet at www.utahfireinfo.gov.

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