



Puma Prescribed Fire (Rx)

The lack of natural fire in Bryce Canyon National Park has contributed to high fuel loading and a change in forest structure. Prescribed fire is a treatment to restore forest health and reduce risks to public and private lands from wildfires.

Background

The Puma Prescribed Fire is an interagency project between the Dixie National Forest (NF) and Bryce Canyon National Park (NP) and will utilize a Unified Command structure to implement. Fuels primarily consist of heavily stocked mixed conifer stands with mature ponderosa pine overstory.

Objectives

The Puma Prescribed Fire is designed to reduce hazardous fuels along Highway 63 in the southern portion of Bryce Canyon NP through the modification of the forest structure. Secondary goals are to open the forest canopy and forest floor to promote the regeneration of ponderosa pine, quaking aspen and other native species. As always, firefighter and public safety is the number one priority.

Location and Size

This project is located on both sides of the highway, near mile marker 13 on Highway 63 (Bryce Canyon NP Main Road). The project area contains approximately 6,000 acres. However, areas to be treated include 2,073 acres on Bryce Canyon NP and treatments of up to 2,019 acres on Dixie NF administered lands.

When

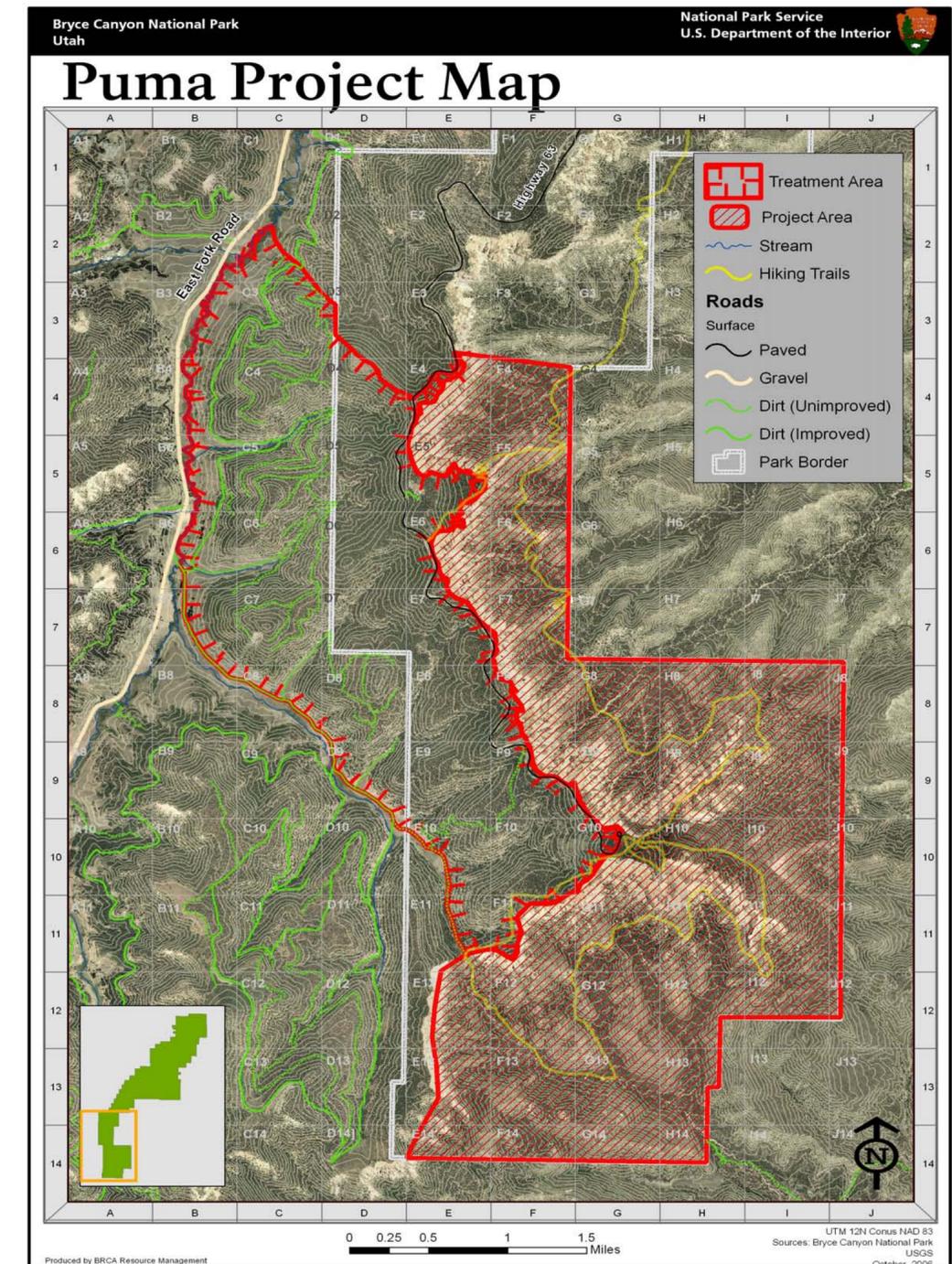
Ignition is planned for the Summer/Fall of 2008 (specific times are dependent on weather conditions and availability of resources). Local residents and visitors will be notified as soon as possible before ignition.

Method

The burn unit will be ignited by both hand and aerial ignition and should last 4-7 days. Heavy fuels within the burn unit may smolder for weeks. The fires will be closely monitored until declared out.

Short-Term Impacts

Possible smoky conditions for 4-7 days. Temporary local trail and road closures.



For more information on Fire Management in Bryce Canyon:
435 834-5322 or brca_superintendent@nps.gov