



Zion National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Zion National Park Cancels Clear Trap Prescribed Fire

Zion National Park Superintendent Jock Whitworth announced that Park Fire Management Officials have decided to cancel the Clear Trap Prescribed Fire (Rx) which was scheduled to begin tomorrow, Saturday, May 12. Fire managers determined that due to forecasted weather conditions next week the vegetation in the burn unit would be too dry and the fire would not meet the resource and protection measures for which it was intended. The burn will not occur this spring, but will be considered again this fall if favorable weather and fuel conditions exist.

The Clear Trap Rx Burn Unit is located along the eastern boundary of the park, adjacent to the Zion Ponderosa Ranch. The objectives of the prescribed fire are to provide protection for surrounding property and structures by reducing the fire hazard along the park boundary and to restore fire to its natural role in ecosystem.

The East Zion Focus Zone, which incorporates the area around the Clear Trap Burn Unit, has been identified by state and federal land management agency administrators as one of six Wildland/Urban Interface Focus Areas requiring priority fuels treatment in the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area. This area covers all of southwest Utah and northwest Arizona.

The goal of the prescribed fire program in Zion is to use management-ignited prescribed fire, where appropriate, for the restoration of fire-dependent ecosystems and specific resource management goals. The policy of using fire as a management tool will help decrease risks to life, property and resources and will help perpetuate the natural resource values for which Zion National Park was established.

For more information about this or other prescribed fire projects in Zion, call 435-772-7811 or visit our website at www.nps.gov/zion/naturescience/fire-management-homepage.htm.

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