



Weeping Rock Experimental Prescribed Burn

In an effort to control the exotic vegetation in Zion Canyon, fire and resource management officials are conducting a series of small experimental prescribed burns to evaluate their effectiveness.

Objectives

To study the effects of prescribed fire, in combination with mechanical and chemical treatments, to reduce/control the amount of exotic vegetation (mainly cheat and brome grasses) in Zion Canyon. To protect existing cottonwoods and willows in the burn unit and to promote native plant regeneration. This type of burn was first conducted in 2002.

Size

4- acres.

Location

In the Weeping Rock area of Zion Canyon.

When

October 2003 (when weather conditions permit).

Method

The burn unit will be hand ignited with the use of drip torches. The burn unit will only be ignited if the weather conditions and smoke dispersal projections are within the preestablished parameters. Sufficient personnel will be on hand to contain the burn to its predefined unit. The fire will be closely monitored until it is declared out. Post fire treatment of exotic vegetation will occur via mechanical or chemical methods.

Completed Work

A mowed firebreak and hose lays have been established around the perimeter of the burn unit. A burn plan has been completed and approved by management officials.

Short-Term Impacts

Possible smoky conditions for 1-2 hours in Zion Canyon. No trail or road closures associated with the burn.



Hand ignition of Weeping Rock experimental prescribed burn (2002).



Wrapping young cottonwoods for protection (2002).



Pre-burn briefing (2002).

For more information on Fire Management in Zion: 435-772-3256.