

PINTO RIDGE WILDLAND FIRE USE SUCCESSFUL

Fire managers on the Wasatch-Cache and Ashley National Forests successfully managed a lightning caused fire in the Pinto Ridge area in the High Uinta Wilderness as Wildland Fire Use in late August early September 2002. This was the first time that a lightning caused fire was jointly managed as Wildland Fire Use in the High Uinta Wilderness, under conditions that were pre-identified in the Ashley and Wasatch-Cache National Forests Wilderness Fire Management Plan. By allowing the fire to run its natural course, the 340 acre ecosystem in the Pinto Ridge area benefited from vegetation regeneration, wildlife habitat enhancement and hazardous fuels reduction. Also, managing the fire for resource benefits was more cost efficient, kept firefighters available for priority fire suppression efforts elsewhere, and helped naturally to reduce built-up fuels.

A Powerpoint presentation was developed by the Wildland Fire Use Team to explain the Pinto Ridge Wildland Fire.