



**GARY R. HERBERT**  
Governor

**GREGORY S. BELL**  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**MICHAEL R. STYLER**  
Executive Director

### Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

**RICHARD J. BUEHLER**  
State Forester/Division Director

News Release  
For Immediate Release  
March 13, 2012

Contact: Jason Curry  
FFSL Public Information Officer  
(801) 538-7302 or (801) 703-0225  
[jasoncurry@utah.gov](mailto:jasoncurry@utah.gov)  
Follow us on Twitter @UtahWildfire

## Farmington Bay Prescribed Fire

Farmington, Utah -- The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, in coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is planning a prescribed fire within the Farmington Bay Wildlife Management Area. If weather and expected smoke dispersal conditions are favorable, the burn will take place, tomorrow, March 14, 2012. Fire managers expect favorable winds in the morning hours and plan to ignite the first sections as early as 9 a.m. Smoke will be visible from the Wasatch Front through the afternoon hours.

The prescribed burn is part of an ongoing effort aimed at eliminating the invasive Phragmites reed which has infested thousands of acres along the bay. Removal of the invasive species will enable the restoration of native wetland plants. The objective is to create a more hospitable habitat for waterfowl and a more accessible setting for the public wishing to visit the area. Various strategies for controlling the reeds have been proposed including mechanical removal, grazing and chemicals. Most of the land is covered by water or mud, making fire the most favorable tactic.

The Utah Division of Air Quality requires that a minimum "clearing index" of 500 is reached before the burn will be permitted. The clearing index is a measurement of atmospheric conditions and upper wind currents which indicate how well-ventilated the air is over the fire area. During the burn, limited sections of the area will be ignited during any given time period in order to maintain the fire's size and manage smoke production. Although smoke will be visible for several hours, it is expected to rise well above the valley floor.

Updates will be posted on Twitter @UtahWildfire.

###

