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News Release
For Immediate Release
October 20, 2014

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Fuels Project Reducing Catastrophic Wildfire Hazard Along Millville Bench

(Salt Lake City) – Today, construction begins on a 2-mile fuel-break on the east bench of Millville and Providence. The project is one of 17 statewide that are designed to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Once the fuel break is completed, the communities will be better protected from wildfire as it will act as a barrier to fire behavior and will be available for firefighters to use as a tactical leverage point in future fire seasons.

The Alta Hotshots will be cutting trees in some areas while limbing and thinning in other areas to maintain a natural appearance. The project area is located on Division of Wildlife Resources land and some private property that contains a buildup of juniper, maple, sage and other brush. Cooperation between the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands, Division of Wildlife Resources and Cache County made the project possible.

Governor Gary R. Herbert created the Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction steering committee following the 2012 fire season. The resulting “CatFire Strategy” aided in identifying the 17 projects statewide. In 2014, the Utah Legislature approved \$1.9 million in funding for the projects which are now either completed or projected for completion before July of 2015.

The report states, “Dollars spent to prevent catastrophic fires will save many times more dollars than the cost of suppression and rehabilitation. In fact, every dollar spent in prevention saves \$17 in suppression.”

A complete description of each of the projects and the full Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy report is located at: <http://1.usa.gov/17JKkIb>

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