

# News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior / Bureau of Land Management  
Idaho Falls District / 1405 Hollipark Drive / Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 8, 2008    **Contact:** Sonja Shadow, 208-524-7613

## **Prescribed Burns Planned Near Rockland and Kilgore Sagebrush Ecosystem Management—A Fine Balance**

**Idaho Falls, Idaho:** The Idaho Falls District Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be conducting prescribed burns during September and October as conditions allow:

- **ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESCRIBED BURN** is located 5 miles east of Kilgore, Idaho. This burn is a follow-up to last year's West 22 Rx burn, of which only about half of the original 2,000 acres was actually treated with fire. This fall firefighters hope to burn the remaining 1,000 acres to finalize the project, which is located on BLM, Endowment land, US Sheep Experiment Station and private lands.

Fire and fuels specialists plan to use fire to reduce two different plant types by 60%. The mountain big sagebrush will be burned so that the area will be more open, allowing for greater variety of plant growth and more accessible forage for wildlife. The aspen stands will be burned with several objectives in mind—to promote regeneration of the species itself, to reduce the number of Douglas fir trees that have encroached on the aspen trees and to improve mule deer habitat.

- **ROCK CORRAL PRESCRIBED BURN** is located 15 miles west of Rockford, Idaho. This burn is planned for cheatgrass control and sagebrush restoration. After firefighters burn the 4,000 project acres this fall, fuels specialists will follow up in the spring with herbicide spray to hamper the noxious weed from re-sprouting, and in the subsequent fall, native grasses and sagebrush seeds will be planted to regenerate this particular ecosystem.

