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DEER VALLEY RESORT CONDUCTING PRESCRIBED BURNS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISKS

DEER VALLEY RESORT; PARK CITY, UTAH (October 26, 2022) –While trail crews are hard at work preparing for a busy winter season at Deer Valley Resort, fall also brings the opportunity for wildfire mitigation efforts on the mountain. The Deer Valley team, in close collaboration with community partners, is utilizing controlled or “prescribed” burns to reduce natural fuels of dead trees and dry brush that pose an increased risk of wildfires.

Deer Valley’s first burn of the season is planned to take place today, Wednesday, October 26, 2022, in the Flagstaff Mountain area. Planned burns will continue throughout the next few weeks as weather conditions allow. Favorable conditions to conduct prescribed burns include having over six inches of snow on the ground and an air clearing index above 500 feet.

“Deer Valley has utilized a comprehensive forest health program since the inception of the resort,” said Deer Valley VP of Mountain Operations Steve Graff. “We’re recognizing we need to increase efforts in our fuel reduction program to reduce wildfire risk and be good stewards of the land we operate on.”

Graff recently took part in shaping the Park City Wildfire Emergency Preparedness Plan, which was developed with partners from the Park City Municipal Corporation (PCMC) and the Wildfire Fuels Reduction Committee with Summit County, the State, Fire Department and Forest Service. Deer Valley trail crews who were trained on burn pile methods by these entities continue to collaborate with them to maintain healthy forests and help reduce wildfire risk in the community.

“We’re using fire as a tool to help us in our forest health program,” adds Graff. “Not only do we drop the dead and dying trees, but now we’re taking it a step further by burning them in the fall when it’s appropriate. The result is a healthier, safer forest ecosystem more resistant to wildfire.”

As the easiest and least expensive method to quickly dispose of large amounts of fuels, prescribed burning is only done in favorable weather conditions, including snowfall and good air quality. Prescribed burns are tightly monitored by crews on site, and the Park City Fire District, Summit County Fire Warden, and the State's Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands are all involved to provide technical assistance and guidance to Deer Valley crews to ensure burns are as safe as possible.

Smoke may be visible in or around the Deer Valley area during a planned burn, but there is no need to call emergency services to report it.

Deer Valley photo and video assets highlighting our fuels reduction efforts are available for download at:
<https://deervalley.widencollective.com/c/mnwkxllu?t=fvmksxji>
<https://vimeo.com/762760010/abe60121e9>

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About Deer Valley Resort

Deer Valley Resort located in Park City, Utah, revolutionized the ski industry by providing the first-class service one would receive at a five-star hotel. The ski-only resort offers 21 chairlifts, 103 ski runs, six bowls, 300 annual inches of powder, 2,026 acres of alpine skiing, limited lift ticket sales, numerous restaurants, three elegant day lodges, hundreds of luxury accommodations and a renowned Ski School and Children's Center. Deer Valley is honored to be ranked as the United States' Best Ski Resort by the World Ski Awards for nine consecutive years (2013-2021).