

# SILVER CITY FUELS MANAGEMENT PROJECT



- National Fire Plan identified Silver City as a high priority community
  - Summer homes and businesses
  - Historic value (mining town, Historic District)
  - Threat from wildfire (thick stands, ladder fuels, insect infestations)

# Over the past 100 years:

- Everything was harvested for the mining town
- Trees grew back in thick, unmanaged stands
- Naturally occurring fires were excluded
  - Conifer stands became susceptible to insects and disease
  - Aspen stands were shaded out by conifers
- Smaller, densely growing conifers provide a ladder for surface fires to climb into the crowns, creating a high potential for catastrophic fire

## **2001 Hazard Assessment**

- Long term forest health should be improved in and around Silver City
- Hazardous fuels should be reduced



# Goals

- Reduce the potential for catastrophic fires
- Provide for defensible space, ingress, egress, and safety zones for fire fighters and residents
- Restore forest health
- Maintain a scenic backdrop for this historic town

# Efforts to Date

- BLM contributed fire fighting equipment to the town
- Fire Education for residents conducted by Student Conservation Association
- BLM-sponsored annual spring clean-up day
- Silver City Fuels Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, in progress

# What have we done so far?

1. Delineated project boundary
2. Located roads and trails
3. Inventoried forested and nonforested vegetation
4. Analyzed fuel characteristics
5. Proposed harvest design
6. Identified priority areas



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# Boundary Determination Criteria

- Fuel type and amount
- Slope/Aspect/Topography
- Potential fire behavior
- Access
- Proximity to town
- Land ownership