

Idaho

South Central Idaho BLM Receives Land Use Plan Award

The Public Lands Foundation named eight South Central Idaho BLM fire and field employees as recipients of the 2003 National Public Lands Foundation Award. The foundation gave the award for unprecedented strides in hazardous fuels treatments and community partnerships since the implementation of the National Fire Plan in 2000.

Shoshone and Burley Field Office Managers, Bill Baker and Theresa Hanley, along with South Central Fire Management Officer Andy Payne received the award at a ceremony in Washington D.C. on January 30. Others receiving the award are Fuels Use Specialist Joe Russell, Lead Fuels Technician Glen Burkhardt, Fire Mitigation and Education Manager John Sabala, and Mitigation and Education Specialists Curtis Jensen and Dennis Smith.

Hanley and Baker were specifically recognized for their leadership and support of National Fire Plan objectives. Payne was also noted for his energy and vision in leading the South Central Idaho BLM Fire Program, one of the five largest wildland fire suppression programs in the West.

“Additional funding through the National Fire Plan has made a vast amount of progress possible for the BLM in South Central Idaho,” Payne said. “We have made enormous leaps in all areas of our organization.”

In the mid 1990s prior to development of the National Fire Plan, South Central Idaho BLM treated less than 400 acres of hazardous fuels per year. With implementation of the plan over 50,000 acres are treated using mechanical and chemical methods every year. In 2002 alone, the South Central BLM fuels program treated 52,000 acres, 75 percent of BLM Idaho’s total treatment and over 18 percent of BLM fuels accomplishments nationwide.



BLM Shoshone Field Manager Bill Baker.



BLM Burley Field Office Manager Theresa Hanley.



South Central Idaho Fire Management Officer Andy Payne.



Highlighting BLM projects that support the National Fire Plan.

Snapshots 2003

April 18



Hidden Valley area sprayed after a recent wildfire during fall of 2001 in south central Idaho.



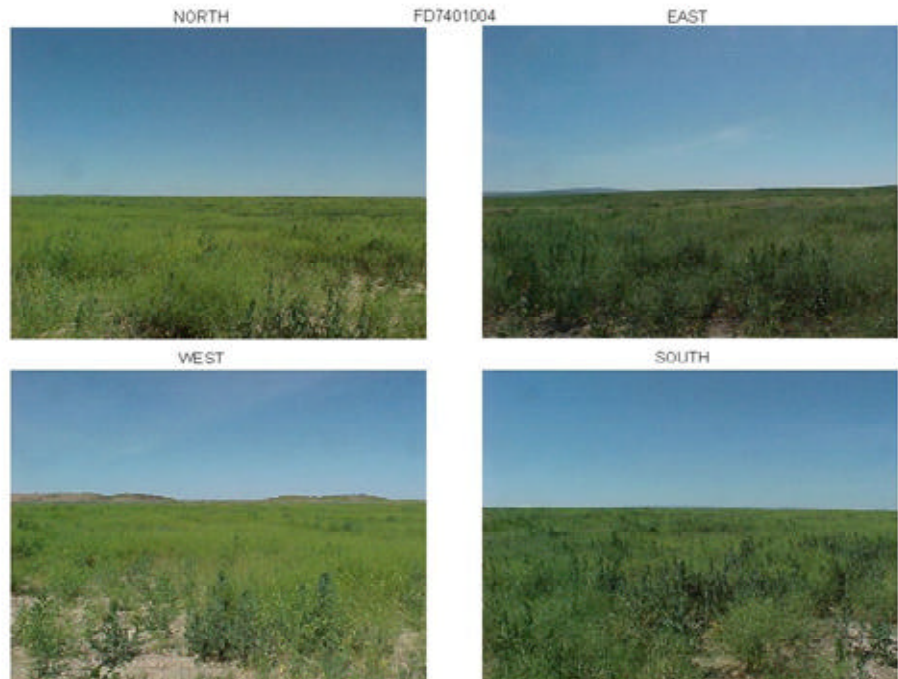
Cheatgrass and weeds grow in the Hidden Valley area of south central Idaho, showing some of the most flammable fuels in the district.

The Hidden Valley region in the south central Idaho was one of the areas that benefited from the work done through the National Fire Plan.

In addition to fuels treatment strides, BLM is also rigorously involved in building partnerships with southern Idaho communities. Since 2001 BLM has been able to establish 51 agreements with rural fire departments and allocate more than \$1.5 million for equipment, training and prevention. More than 20 surplus fire engines and vehicles were also acquired and sold to rural departments giving them more ability to assist the BLM during wildfire initial attack. Through partnership agreements and the purchase of these surplus engines, South central Idaho BLM and rural fire departments are able to more fully cooperate with fire related efforts, keeping fires smaller and saving taxpayer dollars.

fuels reduction and homeowner education in 16 southern Idaho communities. The agency has been successful in embracing the National Fire Plan, allowing its objectives to structure and change how resources are protected and partnerships are sustained in southern Idaho.

In implementing the National Fire Plan, South Central Idaho BLM has also signed agreements for hazardous



Hidden Valley area seeded during 2001. Although some exotic mustard and other weeds remain, the pre-fire cheatgrass is gone. The seeded perennial plants are well established and will out-compete the remaining weeds in the next two to three years.



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