

# Snapshots

Successes of BLM hazardous fuels projects in the wildland urban interface...

The BLM in New Mexico has an active and successful fuels program. Here are a few examples of their projects.

## The Chimayo Scout Camp – New Mexico

The Taos, New Mexico BLM Fire and Surface Protection Program began fuels reduction in the Copper Hill and Chimayo Scout Camp management areas in the summer of 1998. Since then, the BLM has treated approximately 400 acres at each location for a total of 800 acres. With the increase in funding for hazardous fuels reduction projects, an additional 600 to 800 acres during the 2001 fire season will be improved. This will more than triple the amount of acres treated in one year.



*Broadcast and pile burning at Chimayo Scout Camp.*

The Chimayo Scout Camp is a recreational and public purpose (R&PP) Patent from the BLM to the Greater Southwest Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The current Patent agreement requires the BLM to manage all mineral, timber, wildlife, cultural, and recreational resources on the land. Every year, nearly 5,000 scouts visit Camp Frank Rand during the height of the fire season. With this many visitors, hazardous fuels reduction as an important part of ensuring public safety and as well as the welfare of the scouts.

Sale of firewood from the site has produced more than \$40,000 in the past three years. This year, more than \$20,000 could be generated because of this urban interface project.

## Copper Hill Management Area – New Mexico

The Copper Hill Management Area is very close to Penasco, Picuris Pueblo, and surrounding communities, which makes this hazardous fuels reduction project very important. The project is being done in collaboration with Eight Northern Pueblos,

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jointly funded by the New Mexico Environmental Department and the New Mexico State Game and Fish.

The residents of the surrounding communities benefit from this project in several ways. In addition to reducing wildland fire risks to the communities, residents also harvest fuelwood and local hand crews are contracted by the BLM to assist with prescribed fires. Local cooks are employed and the local community center is rented and used as a base camp during the prescribed fire activities.



*Unthinned plot, Copper Hill 1998*



*Plot following thinning, 2000*

Forestry research at Copper Hill was initiated in 1965 under the Kennedy administration and has continued until present day. This site has been thinned and logged many times over the last 50 years, but fire has never been used as a management tool. As the pictures illustrate, tree regeneration has been high even under past thinning practices.

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## Oregon Plans Community Work

The BLM Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area in Klamath Falls, Oregon, has started an ambitious fuels reduction project affecting more than 3,000 acres in and around the small community of Bly Mountain, Oregon. Although the primary goal of this project is to reduce dangerous fuel loadings in the wildland urban interface area, a very important secondary objective is to provide temporary jobs for up to 80 displaced farm workers in the Klamath Basin, which has been devastated by the current drought.

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Using special funding that has been allocated by the Washington Office, the KFRA has obligated the work to four private contractors, who have already begun recruiting workers in the local area. The Oregon Department of Forestry and local elected officials are assisting the BLM in planning, support, and community relations. Work will commence within a few weeks.



*Rural homes will benefit from fuels work.*

## 'Great Land' projects benefit Alaska

Tanacross is a Native village and corporation located in the Tanana River valley in Alaska's interior region. BLM has fire management and protection responsibility for the lands under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.



*Village of Tanacross, Alaska*

The area for fuels treatment has a long history of Native use and occupancy. It currently is surrounded by a dense stand of white spruce



*Homes and office at risk to wildland fire.*

pole timber with transition to dense black spruce. This has high potential for crown-type fires.

A multi-year treatment project will provide employment for local village residents with reducing fuel loading during the balance of 2001, then continuing work during the 2002 fiscal year with

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prescribed fire to remove the slash generated from the fuels work. At this stage through a series of meetings with local people, Native leadership and state government, there is strong support for the project. Hand work is underway for the first stage.

## **Campbell Tract: Wildlands in the Heart of Alaska's Major City**

Campbell Tract is 730 unique wildland acres in the middle of Anchorage, Alaska with a population of 297,000. Immediately adjacent to the tract is a significant wildland-urban interface. Managed by the BLM Anchorage District, the land receives a major amount of recreational use by residents, and any changes or activities generate a high degree of public interest.

This season, crews from BLM's Alaska Fire Service enhanced the defensible space surrounding the facilities, and created a fuel break on a portion of the tract infested with spruce bark beetles.



*Sawyer works to remove invested trees.*



*Stacks of slash will be either picked up or burned.*

The Campbell Tract work is underway now with good community support and has been well accepted as a vital urban fuel reduction project by BLM.

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