

Snapshots

Successful BLM hazardous fuels projects in the wildland urban interface...

California

Prescribed Fire Helping Restore Great Basin Ecosystem

Restoring a portion of the Great Basin ecosystem of northern Nevada has been the focus of the High Rock 2 hazardous fuels reduction project. The project, being conducted by the BLM Surprise Field Office, has been an on-going effort to reintroduce wildfire to the area in an effort to improve plant species diversity, improve big horn sheep habitat, and reduce heavy fuel loading of sage.

A 50-acre prescribed burn was completed recently. The burn will stimulate new and vigorous growth of native plants, including willows and Basin Wildrye, creating a healthier ecosystem.

Fire effects similar to those from prescribed burns conducted three years ago are expected from the recent burn.



The Surprise Fuels Module in action, creating a line in preparation for a burn.



Fire crew member, Alex Irving, standing next to native Basin Wildrye, a result of a prescribed burn three years ago.



Dramatic regrowth of willow after being burned.

November 16, 2001



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Multiple Benefits Achieved At Muck Valley

On October 20, 2001, the Alturas Field Office began a 360-acre hazardous fuels reduction project in and around an old BLM tree plantation in Muck Valley, California. The project reduced the existing heavy fuel loads and ladder fuel complexes, and decreased the potential for wildland fire that could damage public and private timber and threaten nearby homes.

Local private contractors were used on this project. They used a relatively new piece of equipment to masticate brush and trees, the Rayco 250. This machine worked impressively on this project, grinding the heavy fuels into small pieces that will quickly decompose back into the soil. The project also had a biomassing component. Several feller/buncher machines were used to cut and collect the thinned trees that will



Innovative mulching equipment provides benefits in reducing heavy fuel loads.

then be run through a chipper. Chips from this operation were then sold to a local area co-generation power plant.

This project exemplified the multiple resource and community benefits derived from California's hazardous fuels reduction projects.



Completed project shows results of thinning work.

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