

N Northern Region News

SPECIAL EDITION

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees • Issue 1 • 2004

Promoting Healthy Forests and Grasslands: Where We're Headed

—Paula Nelson, Regional Office

Four extreme and costly fire seasons have spawned unprecedented National, bipartisan efforts focused on crafting solutions to the Nation's wildland fire hazards and impacts. New efforts have brought together local, State, Tribal and Federal agencies, non-government organizations and individuals to work collaboratively on the fire problem as well as overall forest health issues.

Through the *National Fire Plan*, *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan*, *Healthy Forests Initiative* and *Healthy Forests Restoration Act*—to name just the major interagency efforts—the situation has been assessed



and tools developed to aggressively tackle fire-hazard reduction primarily on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands.

In January, Chief Dale Bosworth charged the Nation's Forest and Grassland Supervisors with the explicit mission of treating hazardous fuel as the Agency's top priority, along with safety and fire preparedness. We have new tools, a greater National fuels budget, and a clear mission to begin today.

This special edition of the Northern Region News focuses on the need to direct Regional energies to achieve hazardous-fuel reduction, restore fire-dependent ecosystems, and reduce wildland fire risks to communities.

Web Sites

Healthy Forests Restoration Act and Healthy Forests Initiative: <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/hfi/>

National Fire Plan: <http://www.fireplan.gov/content/home/>

10-Year Comprehensive Strategy: <http://www.fireplan.gov/reports/7-19-en.pdf>

10-Year Strategy Implementation Plan: <http://www.fireplan.gov/reports/11-23-en.pdf>

Emphasis on Hazardous-Fuel Reduction 2004 and Beyond

—Larry Dawson, Clearwater National Forest



In January of this year, Forest Service leaders across the country braved a Nebraska blizzard to meet at the Lied Convention Center, birthplace of Arbor Day. As we forged across the wind-swept prairie, I don't think any of us were anticipating the enthusiasm and excitement that developed over the next week.

It began by historians and scholars providing us with the historic evolution of the Forest Service. This context helped us to understand the potential role our Agency could play in the future. It was certainly gratifying to hear that, in the opinion of many, the Forest Service has experienced unprecedented influence and value as an agency.

I was intrigued by Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture Dave Tenny's recounting of the events leading up to the passage of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. He said that 2000-2003 were years of preparation; 2004 is the year of execution. Dave left me with no doubt in my mind that this is a critical moment in time for the Agency. The comments by Chief Dale Bosworth reaffirmed those thoughts. Dale stressed the importance of our operating as a team and emphasized that our actions this year will shape the Forest Service for the

"Our actions this year will shape the Forest Service for the next decade."—Chief Dale Bosworth

next decade.

In our Region 1 Supervisor's meeting, it became obvious to each of us that the only way the Northern Region could ensure success in meeting our fuel targets was to operate as a team. To accomplish those goals, we must be able to quickly move our resources and talent to locations where the projects, weather, and fuels are ready.

In the context that "failure was not an option," the Regional Leadership Team has commissioned a coordination group to help guide the Region this year in accomplishing our goals. This group will help set priorities, move critical resources, and identify contingencies to help ensure success. On behalf of the Regional Leadership Team, I challenge you to be part of our Regional strategy in ensuring we are successful in treating 75,600 acres this year and preparing to treat even more acreage in the coming years.

A Conversation With Regional Forester Gail Kimbell

—Paula Nelson and Gloria Weisgerber, Regional Office

During her first week on the job as Regional Forester, Gail Kimbell sat down with two members of the Public and Governmental Relations staff to talk about her perspectives on the Healthy Forests Initiative. Here are her thoughts.

Q—What are the Administration's and Congress's expectation for the Forest Service?

A—I would say that they expect that we will utilize all the tools we have; the new and old tools, and apply them in active management of the



Regional Forester Gail Kimbell



land. They expect we will treat epidemics and reduce hazardous fuels by working with our communities, other agencies and partner organizations.

Q—What are your expectations for the Region?

A—Region 1 has excellent work going on—such as in stewardship contracting and fuels treatment. It's a great example for the nation. We should build on that foundation for restoration of healthy forest and grassland ecosystems.

Q—From your experience as a District Ranger and Forest Supervisor, how realistic are the goals?

A—I think they're very realistic. When the National Fire Plan was announced, people were pleased that they finally had something to guide them to treat the land, to treat epidemics, and to work with our communities and partners to reduce fuels. Our employees are eager to look at the big picture and to address issues across the

landscape. We have improved tools, political support, community support, and professional interest among our staff to achieve forest health.

Q—Is this only a fire/fuels initiative or are there other functional areas involved?

A—It can't be only fire and fuels. They provide a basis for looking at the issue but we can't stop there and must work towards sustainable ecosystem health.

Q—What are we doing to meet this year's emphasis on hazardous-fuel reduction?

A—The Region has integrated actions across program areas to address targets. It is critical. It can't be just a fire program. It involves everyone.

Q—How were the targets developed? What will they look like in future years?

A—Budget Formulation Execution System information for this fiscal year is a starting point. The Chief has worked

with Regional Foresters to develop fuels targets, and our target for 2004 is 75,600 acres. The Chief wants the Regions to look at increased targets in line with our increased funding for fuels. I anticipate the target will be higher in the out-years.

Q—How will the RO help the Forests and Districts achieve the targets and continue to get other important work done?

A—We're all in this together. The goal requires the expertise, advice, and support across the Region, along with WO and Research collaboration. The work will involve our resource workforce along with contracting, human resources, and so on.

To me, it is critical that we remember that our primary responsibility is *ecosystem health*. If maintaining the health of ecosystems is the foundation of all our planning, then this present initiative for fuels reduction or any other initiative won't disrupt our overall goals.

What's in the Toolbox? —Earl Sutton, Regional Office

Over the past few years, the Forest Service has actively moved to meaningfully improve Agency procedures for planning and implementing actions that promote healthy forests and rangelands. As a result, we have a host of new procedural tools for use at the unit level. These tools are designed to be not only more efficient, but also more relevant to the current planning environment. Each tool has a separate function, but will collectively intertwine to help us accomplish our broader goals.

One example is the revised guidance issued in 2002 by the Director of the Council of Environmental Quality for preparing Environmental Assessments (EA). Fifteen pilot projects na-

tionwide were developed using this guidance and the resulting documentation in the EAs was reduced significantly, averaging 25 to 30 pages. We are planning to utilize these concepts to develop projects in R1.

Other tools include new procedures published last year related to the appeals process. Five new categories of projects now fall within the realm of "categorical exclusion." Projects that fall within those five categories can be excluded from documentation in an EA or an EIS. The new categories include projects designed to reduce fuels, rehabilitate burned areas, small acreages of harvest for salvage or stand improvement and control of insects and disease. Management decisions for

categorically excluded projects cannot be appealed by the public.

In December, the President signed the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Among a host of other provisions, the act seeks to reduce the complexity of environmental documentation for fuels reduction projects by involving the public early and often in project development and limiting the number of alternatives considered in an EIS or EA. The act allows for a predecisional protest period rather than the Agency's normal post-decisional appeal period.

The 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill gave the Agency authority until 2013 for stewardship contracts. This creative tool promotes community collaboration in the development of



restoration projects and emphasizes what is left on the land—not what is taken from it.

Key provisions of this authority include the bundling together of service and timber sale activities in a single contract and allow the value of recovered commercial products to offset the cost of service work.

As with any new set of tools, there will be a learning curve, especially since there are so many in such a short timeframe. Learning how to use these new tools will be both a challenge for the Agency as well as for the public who have become used to working with us through the old processes. Hopefully, the efficacy of the new tools will become apparent and will result in more efficiency in moving us toward our resource goals.

Current information on planning tools and direction can be found on the

Web at: http://fsweb.r1.fs.fed.us/em/nepa/All_Page.html.

Five New Categorical Exclusions

Actions within any of these categories may be excluded from documentation in an EIS or an EA:

- Harvest of live trees not to exceed 70 acres, requiring no more than 1/2 mile of temporary road construction.
- Salvage of dead and/or dying trees not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than 1/2 mile of temporary road construction.
- Commercial and noncommercial sanitation harvest of trees to control insects or disease not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than 1/2 mile of temporary road construction.
- Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire not to exceed 4,500 acres.
- Post-fire rehabilitation activities not to exceed 4,200 acres.

Contracting Tools —Sue Prentiss, Regional Office

All of the traditional contracting tools, as well as the newly developed stewardship integrated resource contracts, are available to accomplish fuel-reduction projects throughout Region 1. These tools are appropriate for prescribed fire support as well as for mechanical treatment. In addition, the Bureau of Land Management has awarded a number of Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts for fuels treatment that are available for use by all wildland fire agencies. Information as to how to obtain and use these contracts is available at: <http://www.nifc.gov/fuelsreductionidiq/>.

The following Intranet sites have information about the Regionwide NEPA and professional services IDIQ contracts, template for timber-stand-improvement contracts and the stewardship contracting forms:

- Listing of Regionwide contracts including NEPA and related professional services and land surveying services (http://fsweb.r1.fs.fed.us/property/procurement/region-wide_contracts/region_wide_contracts_index.htm)
- Region 1 timber-stand-improvement contract template (http://fsweb.r1.fs.fed.us/property/procurement/performance_based_service_contracting/pbsc_index.htm)
- Stewardship Integrated Resource contract templates (http://fsweb.r1.fs.fed.us/forest/land_stewardship/lsc_index.shtml)

Be sure to contact your local contracting office for further information on all the tools available to accomplish fuel-reduction projects.

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A New Regional Approach to Reducing Fuel

—Richard Lasko, Regional Office

Chief Dale Bosworth has delivered a clear message regarding the importance of accomplishing the 2004 fuel program. “Failure is not an option,” Bosworth said and indicated the credibility of the Forest Service hinges on meeting this challenge.

The Northern Region’s share of our Agency’s commitment is 75,600 acres. Regional Forester Gail Kimbell and the Regional Leadership Team have adopted a Regional approach that allows us to be more aggressive in mobilizing personnel and resources to seize prescribed-fire opportunities as prescription windows open. While sharing of personnel and prescribed-fire resources has always been part of the Regional strategy, measures are being developed to strengthen and facilitate the sharing of resources.

The Region has formed a strategy team composed of Clearwater Forest Supervisor Larry Dawson, Gallatin Forest Supervisor Becki Heath, Bitterroot Forest Supervisor Dave Bull and Fire, Air, and Aviation Director Rodd Richardson. This team has the delegated authority from R1 Forest Supervisors to prioritize projects and move



Prescribed fire—the Scapegoat Burn on the Lewis & Clark National Forest

resources to support accomplishment of the fuel-management program.

For example, if three forests have a window of opportunity on the same day to conduct prescribed fires, the strategy group will set priorities and work with the coordination centers to mobilize the needed resources from across the Region. With this approach, a forest or grassland that may have

only burned two to three units on any given day, will have the resources to burn six to ten units and be able to more efficiently use aerial ignition and contingency resources.

It is hoped that this expanded ability to mobilize resources from across the Region to priority areas that are in prescription will allow us to accomplish more of our program in a shorter period of time. This approach will also allow the Region, as long as weather and air quality conditions permit, to continue prescribed burning all through the spring and summer.

Expanding our prescribed burn activities this year may limit our ability to assist other Regions as we have in past years. If another Region requests our assistance, we will brief the Washington Office, identify how it could affect our fuels reduction goals, and request their advice.



A firefighter keeps watch over a prescribed fire.

Finding Value in Underutilized Wood Products

—Nan Christianson, Bitterroot National Forest

Nearly 562,000 tons of slash will be generated by hazardous fuel and other forest health treatments on National Forest System lands in Region 1 in 2004. Add to that, the estimates of 113,000 tons coming from similar treatments on State and private lands in northern Idaho, Montana and North Dakota. Then picture the result—that's enough wood chips to cover a football field nearly one-half mile deep!

Members of the R1 and R4 State & Private Forestry staff are working to expand the ways underutilized wood products—including wood chips and small-diameter materials—can be used commercially. Working with state foresters, community-based nonprofits, and wood manufacturing entrepreneurs, a variety of ideas have been explored, and several are proving to be quite exciting.

The Darby Fuels for Schools demonstration project is perhaps the best known. Using a fully automated and clean-burning, biomass-fueled boiler, the system burns wood chipped from slash piles or mill waste to heat a rural school's entire campus. Replacing the previously used, nonrenewable fossil fuels with



Small, roundwood trusses throughout the main room of the public library in Darby, MT.

locally produced wastewood has enabled the pilot school to save 50 percent of the funds budgeted for heating. The wood chip provider estimates that at least half of the biomass material he delivers to the school will come from fuel reduction work on private and public lands near the community.

The result? Tremendous benefits to the school and the community from a sustainable supply of previously unmerchantable material generated by local healthy forests restoration work. Interest in the pilot project is so strong that additional demonstration projects are

being supported by State & Private Forestry grants throughout our Region.

In addition to chips, other traditionally underutilized wood products are finding their way into creative, new markets. Small-diameter material is being showcased in a beautiful timber bridge at the Travelers Rest State Park. A rural community's new library demonstrates how small diameter materials can replace dimensional lumber in the structural

components of a building. Enhanced technical support for manufacturing and marketing has expanded the use of blue-stained pine paneling and Douglas-fir flooring products.

While none of these new products or markets may fully utilize the volume of noncommercial wood expected to be created in the coming year, each contributes significantly to locally sustainable solutions that support rural economies and the healthy forest-management practices of private landowners and public land managers.

A Success Story: The Lakeface-Lamb Stewardship Project

—David Cobb, Idaho Panhandle National Forests

In the Northern Region's largest forest-stewardship contract to date, homeowners and summer home permittees have been instrumental in reducing hazardous fuel in the wildland-urban interface along the western shores of Priest Lake. Hundreds of summer and year-round homes and structures are situated within dense forest on intermingled private and National Forest System lands. High fuel loadings, dense forest canopies, poor escape routes, and



a relatively high potential for human-caused ignitions created very hazardous conditions.

The Lakeface-Lamb project is a success story on many levels. In the 1990s, employees of the Priest Lake Ranger District and members of the Priest Lake community began collaboration on ways to reduce the hazards along the lakeshore. In early 2001, a comprehensive fuel-reduction and public education program was finalized. In 2002, the local nonprofit Priest River Development Corporation was awarded the Lakeface-Lamb contract.

The fuel-reduction plan calls for hand piling and burning fuel over approximately 275 acres, conducting underburns on more than 150 acres, and mechanically treating fuel on about 1,000 acres. The contract is challenging because of the high recreational values of the area, the complexity of this particular wildland-urban interface, and the characteristics of the timber stands. Prescribed burning is limited because most of the tree species are intolerant of even low-intensity burns. Mechanical treatments are the primary tool for thinning stands and piling slash. The combination of methods was selected for cost efficiency and ability to achieve the project's goals. Fuel specialist Steve Anderson says of the project, "We've been able to effectively treat the fuels as well as generate additional revenue to pay for the extra restoration projects planned for the area."

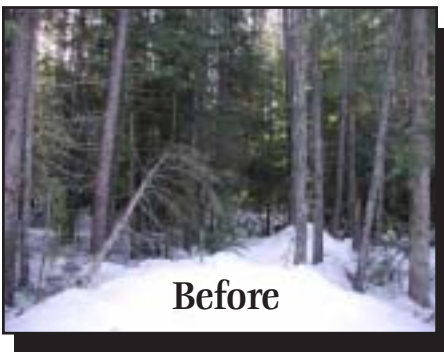


An excavator piles slash in a treatment unit after the unit had been thinned.

District Ranger Kathy Murphy is pleased with the good will and support the project has fostered. "The local residents and summer homeowners, the contractor, local stewardship monitoring committee, and the community as a whole have generally been very supportive of our efforts," said Murphy. "Small demonstration areas were used to show folks what the fuels reduction would look like on the ground. We were conservative with treatments right next to lease cabins, relying more heavily on hand thinning and piling.

As the public has seen the treatments, I think they are becoming even more supportive and trusting. Building trust and relationships between all the stakeholders through this project has been very rewarding and I am looking forward to working with them even more in the future. As a matter of fact, in several instances I've been asked if my staff and I could expand our plans and treat additional areas near other homes and properties," Murphy added.

So far, most of the hand thinning and piling treatments have been completed and approximately one-third of the mechanical treatments. In addition to the fuel treatments, the other restoration projects that are included in the stewardship contract include items such as: road maintenance, obliteration and culvert replacements, riparian fencing, trail reconstruction, precommercial thinning and white pine pruning, the construction of a winter warming hut, and noxious-weed treatments.



Before

One of the units planned for treatment.



After

The same unit after thinning and slashing.

Smoke Management

—Ann Acheson, Regional Office

The Northern Region is embarking on an ambitious fuel-reduction program involving a significant amount of burning. We know that our normal season for conducting prescribed fires may be extended to move toward the goal of restoring fire to ecosystems.

Whatever the targets, we will be mindful of air quality. Managers will be considering smoke impacts in planning and conducting burns. A key group to ensure that our burning operations do not threaten State air-quality standards in Montana and Idaho is the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group.

The purpose of this group is to minimize or prevent smoke impacts to communities while using prescribed fire to accomplish land management objectives. In North Dakota, there is no formal organized group to coordinate daily burning, but individual burners must consider impacts to air quality before they ignite.

The Montana/Idaho Airshed Group is currently composed of 25 members representing Federal, State, and local government agencies, as well as private companies who routinely conduct prescribed burns. The Forest Service typically does the most burning. Group members submit a list of planned burns to a monitoring unit in Missoula describing the type of burn to be conducted on the number of acres, as well as the location and elevation at each site.

Through the Missoula monitoring unit, the Montana and Idaho Departments of Environmental Quality interact with the decisions that can restrict burning. The networking helps ensure that air-quality standards are protected.

The benefits from the work of the group are enormous. They are committed to reducing smoke impacts from prescribed burning in order help protect public health and the quality of life we all enjoy in Montana and Idaho.



Firefighters ignite a prescribed fire.



Smoke from a prescribed burn.

To learn more about the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group, go to the Web site: <http://www.smokemu.org>.



The Forest Service has established hazardous-fuel reduction as a high priority, both nationally and within the Northern Region. Resource integration is not only an opportunity, but also an expectation in the attainment of these targets. Through integrated interdisciplinary effort, we have the best chance of successfully attaining our target and doing so in a manner that has the broadest range of benefits to communities and natural resources within the Region.

Of key importance to successful integration is open and honest multidisciplinary dialogue relative to the benefits, challenges, tradeoffs and public expectations that are set. Resource specialists have a responsibility to engage in this process and line officers have a responsibility to ensure that they are engaged.

Although hazardous-fuel target attainment in Fiscal Year 2004 is likely to be challenging, the expectations, importance, and need to meet our target is abundantly clear. Less clear is the course that we should set for managing complex fire-dependent ecosystems in the coming years. Fire has and always will be a critical disturbance process that shapes ecosystems within

the Northern Region, often operating at a grand scale.

We know that current fuel buildup in our forests is unnaturally high, representing a threat for sudden and drastic change on the landscape. We also understand that both short- and long-term climatic conditions greatly influence the magnitude and scale of disturbance process and that such influences will temper and possibly overshadow the expectations we have for management activities.

In the coming years, I am confident that we will undertake projects to improve big game winter range, create snags for cavity dependent wildlife, reduce the risk of severe fire effects on isolated native fish populations, and restore grassland habitat being encroached upon by conifers. I am hopeful that we will also seize the opportunity before us to implement a thoughtful and adaptive approach to managing our fire-dependent ecosystems at a landscape scale.

In this time of flat budgets implemented and managed within a constrained framework, the effect of an

intense and continued focus on hazardous fuel and forest health has the potential to have consequences to other resources and Forest Service programs. Increased concern over high-severity fires is occurring concurrently with concern for conserving aquatic species and restoring networks of productive aquatic habitats.

However, there is scientific debate whether an aggressive program of active management designed to reduce the risk of severe wildland fire should be a priority for restoring watersheds and aquatic ecosystems, particularly if the focus of dollars and resources means that other activities and opportunities to conduct needed restoration activities



Bobcat

are diminished or foregone. Here again, open and honest interdisciplinary dialogue about the benefits, challenges, tradeoffs and public expectations is necessary. We will be placing an emphasis on hazardous-fuel reduction in the coming years and it is incumbent on us all to engage in integrated project and program level discussion, planning, and implementation to achieve social and ecological goals.

"This emphasis on our fire program does not diminish the importance of the other work we do in this Region."—Regional Forester Gail Kimbell

Creating Strong Communities and Healthy Ecosystems: *Partnerships and Opportunities*

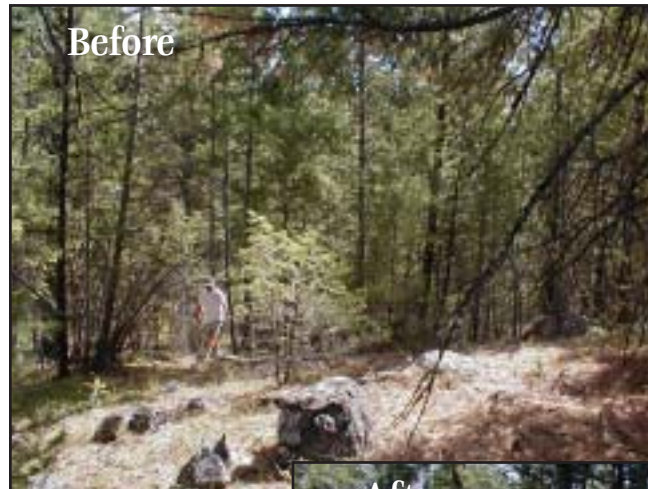
—Cathy Scofield, Regional Office

Communities and homeowners have recognized the need to identify their fire hazards in the urban interface and develop local citizen-driven solutions. It is important that we develop partnerships with communities and private citizens, Federal and State agencies, and local and Tribal governments to address the threat from catastrophic wildland fire. We all share a common goal, which is to build capacity in and around communities to assess risk, protect lives and property, and restore forests to a healthy, sustainable condition.

National forests and grasslands contribute by facilitating community-driven projects in the wildland urban interface, and coordinating efforts across multiple land ownerships for maximum results.

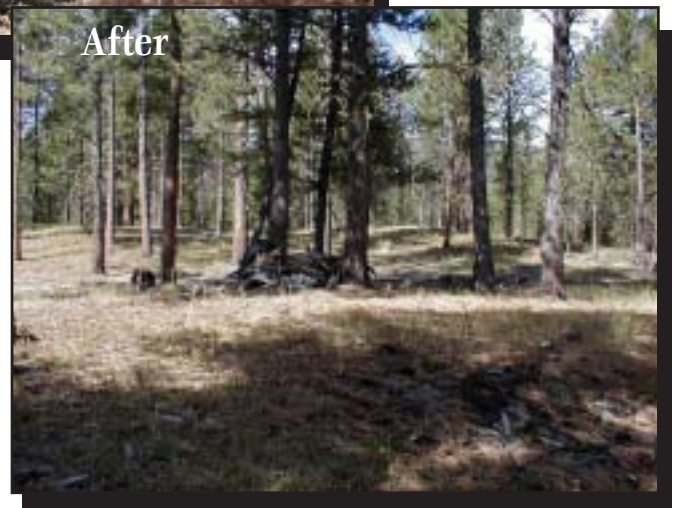
Opportunities for Non-Federal Partners

The Cooperative Fire program, within State & Private Forestry, provides financial and technical support directly to States, to support community-based hazard mitigation opportunities, to expand outreach and education to homeowners and communities about FIREWISE practices, and to reduce hazardous fuel. Federal funds flow through the state foresters to communities, Tribes, or nonprofit organizations through a subgrant process. Subgrantees develop project work plans, financial budgets, and landowner agreements as appropriate. Inkind or financial matches are required.



Before

Bob Moses' property near Lost Horse Creek, Bitterroot National Forest, before treatment.



After

Moses' property after treatment.

Each State has a lead coordinator that matches needs and opportunities for hazard mitigation, hazardous-fuel reduction, information, and education. To learn more about what is going on in your State, contact:

Idaho: Peggy Polichio
Idaho Department of Lands
Phone: 208-666-8646
E-mail: ppolichio@idl.state.id.us
Web site: <http://www2.state.id.us/lands/index.htm>

Montana: Paula Rosenthal
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Phone: 406-542-4235
E-mail: prosenthal@state.mt.us
Web site: <http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/forestry>

North Dakota: Mike Santucci
ND Forest Service
Phone: 701-328-9946
E-mail: Mike.Santucci@ndsu.nodak.edu
Web site: http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndsu/lbakken/forest/Fire/fire_homepage.htm

FIREWISE



Making Sensible Choices in the Wildland/Urban Interface

—Cathy Scofield, Regional Office



When adequately prepared, a house can withstand a wildland fire without the intervention of the fire service. In fact, a house and its surrounding community can be both FIREWISE and compatible with the area's ecosystem. FIREWISE practices enables homeowners and communi-

ties to achieve a high level of protection against wildland/urban interface fire as well as sustainable ecosystem balance. FIREWISE provides residents of the wildland/urban interface with the knowledge and skill necessary to make it happen. Information can be found at: <http://www.firewise.org/>.

FireSMART Wagon

—Nan Christianson, Bitterroot National Forest

Partners in the Bitterroot Community Fire Plan secured a Forest Service State & Private Forestry grant to purchase and outfit a FireSMART Wagon complete with generator-powered TV, VCR, computer with interactive fire-related programs, a FIREWISE educational trunk, and lots of informational handouts. It's a tremendous tool to take to schools and community events, to use during highly visible prescribed burns, and at key public contact points during suppression activities. Best of all—it's available to neighboring communities and forests when it's not in use in the Bitterroot!

Arrangements for its use can be made by contacting Becki Linderman at the Bitter Root Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc., 406-363-1444, extension 5. Call Nan Christianson on the Bitterroot National Forest at 406-363-7113 if you have any questions.



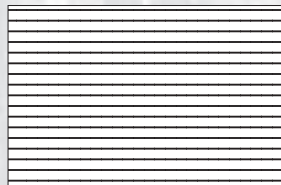
The FireSMART Wagon on the Bitterroot National Forest.

Glossary of Terms —Betty Blocker, Regional Office

- **At-Risk Community**—A group of homes and other structures with basic infrastructure and services (such as utilities and collectively maintained transportation routes) within or adjacent to Federal land. Conditions are conducive to a large-scale wildland fire. (Defined in the Federal Register August 17, 2001, www.fireplan.gov/reports/351-358-en.pdf.)
- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan**—A plan for at-risk community that is developed within the context of collaborative agreements and the guidance established by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council. It prioritizes and identifies areas for hazardous-fuel-reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment on Federal and non-Federal land that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure. Recommends measures to reduce structure ignitability throughout the at-risk community.
- **Fire-Prone Ecosystem**—Ecosystems that historically burned intensely at low frequencies (stand replacing fires), those that burned with low intensity at a high frequency (under-story fires), and those that burned very infrequently historically, but are not subject to much more frequent fires because of changed conditions. These include fire-influenced and fire-adapted ecosystems.
- **Fuel Reduction**—Manipulation, including combustion, or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control.
- **Prescribed Fire**—Any fire ignited by management actions under certain, predetermined conditions to meet specific objectives related to hazardous fuels or habitat improvement. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements must be met prior to ignition.
- **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)**—The line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuel.

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