

**Placerville Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project  
Idaho City Ranger District - Fiscal Year 2009  
Boise National Forest**

**Project Description** – With the help of ARRA funding, this 722 acre biomass stewardship project reduced hazardous fuels near Placerville, a mountain community about 35 miles east of Boise. It is another successful project that integrated funding opportunities, and adds to many other completed interagency fuel reduction partnerships in this broad and growing WUI area. Most importantly it further established a solid future for small diameter vegetation projects that can be effective and cost efficient due to private industry enhancement. A culmination of separate ARRA funds applied to a new stud mill in Emmett and a biomass pellet facility in Boise/Mountain Home, each within a 2-hour drive from the Forest are key infrastructure improvements. In this wildfire volatile low elevation dry ponderosa pine forest it is notable that added financial support to local operators has, and will, increase fuel reduction treatments, especially in the WUI.

**Implementation Plan** –The initial successful bidder (a local contractor), received ARRA funds to build a small stud mill. His low bid provided additional funds for the award of additional treatment acres to a different local contractor. That contractor also received ARRA funding for an Intermountain pellet manufacturing plant which increases local capability to utilize small diameter material. The stewardship biomass utilization contracts were funded by the Regional Priority Fuels program with collaborative support from the Idaho State National Fire Plan Working Group and Boise County CWPP objectives.

These contractors are using material down to a 4 inch top to produce chips for bio-energy (co-gen and pellets), dimensional lumber (studs), landscaping material (bark) and even shavings (animal bedding). Successful bids on the project represent stronger local contractor interest and capability generated by ARRA stimulus for the abundant small diameter material in the local WUI areas. The local contractors also minimized slash by ‘whole tree’ yarding to landings which increased biomass utilization.

Other projects completed in this increasing WUI area have incorporated commercial and pre-commercial thinning, mastication, pile burning and landscape prescribed fire. They include Alder Stewardship, Alder Pilot, Star Gulch, and Little Ophir.

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Pre-Treatment



Post-Treatment



Chips ready for transport