



## **Soda Point Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project**

### **Montpelier Ranger District – Fiscal Year 2009**

#### **Caribou-Targhee National Forest**

**Project Description:** With the help of the Idaho above base funding this 180 acre hazardous fuels reduction project around communication sites was started. The project is located 7 miles west of Soda Springs. Two treatment prescriptions are being used on this project. Treatment Area 1 is a 50 foot buffer around the existing buildings, towers, and dishes. The fuel consists of thick mahogany, juniper, sagebrush and sparse maple surrounding the communication towers. The proposed treatment is to cut and handpile all woody vegetation within the buffer. The piles would be burned in the spring or fall depending on weather conditions. Treatment Area 2 includes the Douglas-fir, mahogany, and juniper stands leading upslope to the communication towers. The proposed treatment within the mountain mahogany and juniper stands would be a combination of thinning and cross-slope fire breaks. Spacing would average 40 feet between individual trees or clumps of trees creating a random appearance on the landscape. Cut fuels would be hand piled. Within the Douglas-fir stand, the proposed treatment is cutting of all trees less than eight inches in diameter. In addition, remaining trees within 100 feet of the ridge would be limbed. Hand piles would be burned in the spring or fall depending on weather conditions.

**Implementation Plan:** This first treatment was implemented in the summer of 2009. In treatment one the communication sites were cut around and fuels were piled. Treatment two of this project will occur in the summer of 2010. The second treatment will occur further away from communication towers and in Douglas fir stands. A combination of cut, pile, and burning will be used to meet the 180 acre target. Completion of this project will be in the fall of 2010.



Before



After