

## **ALPINE ACRES HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION**

### **Heber-Kamas Ranger District – Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest**

#### **PURPOSE AND NEED:**

*The purpose of the project is to reduce hazardous fuel, future fire intensity on Forest System Lands and the need is to reduce potential impacts to the community of Alpine Acres.*

Alpine Acres is a small community, which is listed as a “Community at Risk” in the Federal Register (1/4/2001, Vol. 66, No. 3). The proposed area is located up Weber Canyon, Summit County, SLM T1N R8E Sections 35 and 36; T1S R8E Sections 1 and 2. The community contains 86 cabins within approximately 640 acres of moderately heavy timbered mountainous terrain. It is in a box canyon with only one road in/out, with extensive mountain pine beetle activity and can be accessed by vehicle primarily between May - October. The community of Alpine Acres is surrounded on three sides by National Forest System Lands. Members of the community have prepared a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) which was completed in 2007. The community has been working, in conjunction with Ken Ludwig (Utah Department of Natural Resources), to reduce fuel loadings on the private land within their community and around their residences. They are concerned with the threat of wildfire coming off of National Forest System Lands and onto the private property. This project was documented as a priority by the Alpine Acres Community as part of their community wildfire protection plan (CWPP).

#### **PROPOSED ACTION:**

**Create a shaded fuel break (approximately 1.4 miles long x 100 feet wide on average) within 300 feet of western and southern community boundaries [proposed by the community]**

#### **What is a shaded fuelbreak?**

A *shaded fuelbreak* is a linear swath within a forest where some of the vegetation has been removed to alter the amount of fuel present. Some trees are removed while others remain. Consequently, some fuel remains in a shaded fuelbreak but is reduced compared to areas outside the fuelbreak. Sufficient forest canopy is retained so that vegetation underneath the canopy is shaded and typically has slightly higher fuel moisture content and lower wind speed than open areas with no canopy cover.

#### Treatment Specifics

- Minimum 10 foot spacing between crowns, more if on a slope
- Diseased, suppressed, dead, deformed, or damaged trees should be removed first, then remove healthy trees as needed to obtain spacing between crowns
- All ladder fuels should be removed, trees less than 4-5 feet tall, and larger trees will be limbed up to a height of 6 feet
- Pile and burn slash
- Maintain aspen cover types along the Forest Boundary
- Maintenance -- Will be determined based with monitoring
- ATV's can be used for transporting equipment/supplies into and out of the shaded fuel break area. Any temporary trails will be obliterated.

**PRELIMINARY ISSUES:**

Water quality	Management Indicator Species	Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive Species	Public Safety
Soil movement	Migratory birds	Roadless Area (Lakes)	Weeds

**ALTERNATIVES:**

There are currently two Alternatives; the “Proposed Action” described above and the “No Action” which would be no treatment.