

Shoshone National Forest – vegetation management projects in 2011

Current insect situation and vegetation management activities

The 2010 aerial survey indicated that 1.1 million acres of the Shoshone National Forest have been impacted by insects. Mortality in mature trees in affected areas ranges from 25 to 100 percent. Additional mortality is expected, most notably on southern portions of the Shoshone in areas such as the Wind River drainage.

Vegetation management

The NEPA process is completed for fuels and forest health treatments on over 20,000 priority acres. An estimated 40,000 Ccf¹ of timber products are available for removal.

Wildland urban interface areas adjacent to private property and high value Forest Service infrastructure have been identified as the priority areas for treatment. Mechanical treatments in the North Fork Shoshone River corridor are nearly complete. We have been treating areas in the Wind River drainage near Dubois with approximately 3,000 acres under service contracts or timber sales this year.

Other priority areas on the schedule for treatment include the Sunlight drainage and Bald Ridge areas northwest of Cody, and the Cottonwood-Gooseberry and Wood River areas southwest of Meeteetse.

This table displays a summary of the Shoshone’s completed and proposed treatment acres/volume by category and year.

Treatment category	Year			
	2008	2009	2010	2011 planned
Fuels treatments (prescribed burning in acres)	3,000	3,000	2,000	2,000
Fuels treatments (mechanical in acres, including timber sales)	2,000	3,000	8,000	1,000
Total fuels treatment acres	5,000	6,000	10,000	3,000
Timber sale volume (including salvage) (in Ccf)	15,000	21,000	7,000	18,000

Projects

Project areas are located in the Wind River drainage near Dubois (Upper and Lower Wind Fuels Reduction Projects) and the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie near Lander (Middle Fork Fuels Reduction Project).

Fuels reduction work includes mechanical thinning, removal of products, and piling of slash. Viable products are being sold when possible and firewood cutting opportunities made available to the public.

Hazard tree status

Work on assessments and hazard tree removal in campgrounds, resort areas, and other developed sites is a high priority. Work will continue through fiscal year 2011. Hazard trees are being dropped by Forest Service crews and the resulting material is being disposed of as firewood. As work progresses, other removal strategies will likely be implemented, including small timber sales or contract removal. An emphasis on utilizing the products, either as firewood or saw logs, is currently planned.

¹ Ccf stands for hundred cubic feet (C = 100 and cf = cubic feet. For example, 10,000 Ccf equals 1,000,000 cubic feet)