

**North Prairie Hazardous Fuels Project  
Boise National Forest, Mountain Home Ranger District  
2008**



**Project Description:** The North Prairie Hazardous Fuels Project is adjacent to a growing Wildland Urban Interface site, where the homes meet the forest, and was identified for treatment in the Elmore County, Idaho Wildfire Protection Plan. Project activities included thinning, pruning and pile burning to reduce 12 inch or smaller diameter understory vegetation such as Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir.

Resident Bob Meredith, who owns 7 acres that adjoin the forest boundary and almost lost his home in the 1992 Foothill fire, commented on the quick and great job accomplished. He limbed his trees and plans to complete slash pile burning in the spring.

**Implementation Plan and Accomplishments:**

Project implementation through a service contract began in early fall. The work involved thinning small diameter trees to provide adequate crown spacing which will limit crown fire. Limbs were pruned as well on residual trees to raise canopy height, thus limiting tree mortality and enhancing firefighter safety in the event of a wildfire. Small diameter vegetative debris was piled for burning at a later date. The larger diameter wood was offered to the public as free use firewood which enhanced biomass utilization and further reduced fuel loads.



Terry Carrico, District Fire Prevention Officer noted that after this year's fire and in conjunction with the public land fuel treatment, some private land owners initiated treatment on their lands. They also have expressed interest in seeking grants from their local Resource Conservation and Development Council to treat private lands.

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