

National Fire Plan

Holbrook Fuel Reduction Project

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Tally Lake Ranger District designated the Holbrook Overlook on Big Mountain, Flathead County as the number one hazardous fuels reduction priority on the district. This 80-acre tract of Forest Service property was completely surrounded by private homes. Big Mountain is a ski resort with slopes on Forest Service land. Heavy fuel loading can create a fire that burns at a higher rate of intensity making it less controllable. During the summer of 2001, the Tally Lake Fire and Fuels Crews cleared brush and small trees. The brush and small trees were piled and burned during the winter when risk of fire is eliminated by snowfall.



Pretreatment conditions. Fuels to be treated include the less than 3 inch live and dead component. This component has an estimated 40 to 50 tons per acre at this site.



Tally Lake Ranger District fire crew treating fuels. No merchantable-sized trees were treated.



Post-treatment conditions prior to pile burning. Water resistant paper caps are placed on top of the piles allowing for dry fuels after the area is covered in snow.



Post-treatment conditions after one year. These photographs were taken in an area treated nearby during a previous fuels reduction project. Note in the lower photograph how a person-caused fire was quickly suppressed in the dry conditions experienced in 2000.