

## *National Fire Plan*

### *Swaney Fire Salvage and Fuel Reduction*

**Written by Betty Higgins, Incident Information Officer**

After the 1999 Swaney Fire in the Star Meadow community, the Tally Lake Ranger District proposed conducting a salvage sale of fire damaged trees and Mountain Pine Beetle damaged trees in the Star Meadow community. During public scoping of the project, Star Meadow residents, John and Mary Lou Musser, requested the Forest Service consider other areas to reduce the fire hazards. District Ranger Jane Kollmeyer agreed with the Mussers and added approximately 120 acres of fuel reduction work around the Musser's property. The fuel reduction project consisted of thinning diseased and damaged trees within 300 feet to ¼ mile of private property, piling non-merchantable slash and burning these piles during the winter or spring. The Mussers are also completing fuel reduction activities on their forested land as well. When this project was appealed, the Mussers requested intervenor status and wrote letters of support for the Swaney Fire project. Because of the work by the Forest Service, other landowners are following suite. Schulz Lumber Company has been contracted to do similar fuel reduction thinning in Star Meadow.



Looking up from Musser property toward Swaney Fire Salvage Sale and Fuel Reduction Project



Looking down from the treatment area toward Musser's house.