

**Duck Creek Fuels Project
Dixie National Forest
2007**



Project Description: The Duck Creek Fuels Project is planned to encompass over 11,000 acres on the Cedar City Ranger District near Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), where homes meet the forest. A service contract to thin mechanically and by hand was awarded in 2006, to reduce ladder fuels such as small shrubs and grasses that can carry fire. Fire tolerant species, like ponderosa pine, are likely to establish in mixed conifer stands once thinning is completed. End results are expected to allow for effective management of a

wildland fire and protect public safety, including a potential 5,000 homes and businesses projected to be near the project area by 2009. The purpose of Duck Creek Fuels Project is to cause an immediate change in the rate of spread and fire intensity in the event of a wildland fire and provide for public and firefighter safety. The Duck Creek Fuels Project was initiated with strong support from the community and cooperators. Project supporters included the Cedar Mountain Fire Protection District, the Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands, and the Color Country Interagency Fuels Committee. The local Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) encouraged the Forest Service to take serious fuel reduction steps in the identified wildland/urban interface, where homes meet the forest, near Duck Creek and associated subdivisions. These subdivisions represent the fastest growing portion of Kane County Utah.



Implementation Plan and Accomplishment to Date: Implementation of the first phase of the project began in 2006, thinning close to 3,000 acres. The project administers treatments on federal land to complement treatments which have occurred and continue to take place on the private lands, to provide more effective fire breaks. The project establishes a Defensible Fire Suppression (DFS), zone, sufficient to allow effective and low risk fire suppression activities to

occur. The project is intended to regenerate aspen stands and maintains current aspen stands which are important to wildlife and are natural fuel breaks. Approximately 1000 acres of DFS have been thinned, limbed, and piled. Work continued in this area in 2007 with additional fuel breaks in progress around the rest of Strawberry Creek subdivision and Duck Creek Village.

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