



Garden Creek Fuels Reduction West of Round Valley and Challis, Idaho 2007



Project Description: The Garden Creek fuels reduction project is located on the Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District, Salmon-Challis National Forest in the Challis, Idaho municipal watershed. The Garden Creek project will be implemented by prescribed burning over 4,000 acres, thinning 327 acres and a 15 acre timber sale. The project benefits include a reduction of hazardous fuels, consisting mostly of overgrown Douglas fir, enhancement of wildlife habitats (especially aspen stands) and better

protection of the municipal watershed. A thinning service contract to thin from below to a 20 foot crown clearance for 327 acres was developed to take place over three years. The contract has been let and the first year of thinning has been completed on 131 acres. Piles of the thinned material will be burned in the fall of 2008 after they have dried. The service contract agreement will treat 98 acres per year for the next two years in the same manner as year one. The District began prescribed burning along the forest boundary in November 2007, burning an estimated 200 acres. The timber sale contract has been offered to remove smaller understory trees from two small Douglas-fir stands along the road.



Implementation Plan and Accomplishment to date:

This project was developed to address the request of the Custer County – Idaho Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan and is also a priority in the National Fire Plan. The overall project will treat almost 5,000 acres and is expected to be completed in five to 10 years depending on proper burning conditions to meet specific objectives. Fire behavior modeling indicates a wildland fire, except under extreme conditions, will not transition into a smoke-plume dominated, crown, or treetop, fire once the

project is finished. Results are expected to increase protection to the municipal watershed, the surrounding community, and allow fire managers to more effectively control a wildland fire in the area.

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