



Seafoam Guard Station Shaded Fuel Break 2007



Project Description: The Seafoam Guard Station Shaded Fuel Break project is located on the Middle Fork Ranger District, Salmon-Challis National Forest. This area is a heavily used recreation area associated with the Soldier Lakes trailheads. Located within the project area, is the Seafoam Administrative site, which has nine historic buildings, and a private in-holding with a house and two outbuildings. A continuous stand of lodgepole pine and a dense understory, of seedling and sapling trees, surrounded the private inholding and Administrative Site. The mountain pine beetle epidemic occurring in central Idaho is rapidly increasing the mortality rate of pine trees, similar in size to the pine in the project area. Thinning of the area increases the life span of the tree stand and will reduce the susceptibility to the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

Implementation Plan and Accomplishment to date: This project was developed to address a request in the Custer County – Idaho Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan and a priority area in the National Fire Plan. A service contract to thin the stand, over 155 acres, was completed. Commercial and public firewood permittees removed the thinned materials and the Forest Service burned the remaining piles when weather conditions allowed.

The finished project is expected to increase protection to the private inholdings, the Seafoam Administrative Site and allows firefighters to engage a wildland fire in the area more safely and effectively. It also provides a landscape more suitable for future prescribed burns and/or wildfire use for resource benefits, additional treatments will be required as lodgepole regeneration established. Fire behavior modeling also indicates that flame lengths and fire intensity will remain low enough to allow direct attack by hand crews, on a wildfire in the project area.

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