

**Warm Springs Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project
Ketchum Ranger District—Sawtooth National Forest
2007**



Project Description: The Warm Springs Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project is located on the Ketchum Ranger District, Sawtooth National Forest. The project area consists of 104 acres of Douglas-fir forest and is located within two miles of Ketchum, Idaho. Many residential properties are immediately adjacent to the project boundaries. An additional 200 homes and the Sun Valley Ski Resort are within a quarter mile of the project. The expected results were to provide defensible space,

reduce densely packed brush, and add mixed-aged, diversity to trees, brush, and grass to the project area ecosystem. Manual removal of brush and trees was administered by Forest Service crews and a service contract awarded for commercial harvest of small-diameter trees in specific units.

Implementation Plan and Accomplishment to date: Four areas were scheduled for treatment to reduce understory, or densely packed brush, reduce overall basal area, and achieve crown, treetop, separation to reduce the probability of a crown fire. The contractor removed small-diameter trees and existing surface fuels on 27 acres. Two more units, located on very steep slopes, directly upslope from the harvest units were also thinned by hand. A total of 55 acres was achieved and incorporated slash piling and burning. In August 2007, hand thinning of 4 units was to begin, however activities were placed on hold for a fire in the vicinity threatening the town of Ketchum.



Tested by fire: The lightning caused, Castle Rock fire advanced aggressively towards Ketchum over several days. Unit 4, which was logged the previous fall in 2006, was used by firefighters to burnout fuels between homes and the approaching wildland fire. Conversations with hotshot crews indicate the treatment assisted in burn out operations due to the project's proximity to homes in the Wildland Urban Interface, where homes meet the forest.

After the fire was suppressed, the hand thinning and timber sale proceeded on an additional 35 acres.

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