

**Whites Creek Pile Burning
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest - Carson Ranger District
2007**



Project Description: The Whites Creek pile burn is located on the Carson Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe N.F. west of Reno, Nevada. The project area is directly adjacent to a large housing development in a rapidly growing, urban area of Washoe County, near the Mount Rose Highway. The area consists of a mixed conifer stand with a large stand of mountain mahogany. The benefits of this project are to reduce hazardous fuels, improve wildlife habitat, enhance watershed characteristics, and provide for firefighter safety in the event of a wildland fire near the

Timberline community. Project activities have included wood-chipping, mechanical and hand thinning, and prescribed fire. The expected results from this project when completed are to help reduce the risk of a catastrophic fire and to allow for fire managers to more effectively control a wildland fire in the area.



Implementation Plan and Accomplishment to Date:

The Whites Creek project has been in implementation since 2001. The area encompasses approximately 700 acres. The dense stands of the mountain mahogany have been treated by mechanical equipment, hand thinning, piling and burning or wood-chipping. Previous treatments have included prescribed burning in the unit to reduce the number of piles generated by thinning activity. The project has been implemented by both forest service crews and contract crews, with all prescribed burning being done by Forest Service personnel.

This year's pile burning accomplished 70 acres of the 300 acre target. The area experienced a dry winter with very little snow or precipitation days to allow for burning. Prescribed burning started early February and lasted for six weeks with numerous "no burn" days throughout the specified time frame. This area poses a problem with limited burn days due to the project area's predominant south facing aspect, which holds snow for a very short duration of time.

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