National Fire Plan

Yellowstone Canyon Fuels Reduction
Ashley National Forest, Duchesne/Roosevelt Ranger District
2007

Project Description: The Yellowstone Canyon Fuels Reduction project is located on the Duchesne/Roosevelt Ranger District on the Ashley National Forest. Through a combination of treatments over five years this project will reduce the overgrowth of trees, shrubs, and grasses on the east and west sides of the Yellowstone Drainage, providing a buffer around private property and Forest Service facilities in the Wildland Urban Interface, where homes meet the forest. Housing developments in this area have been defined as "high risk" based on the surrounding environment, immediate fire hazards, and area history. Intended project results include reducing the area classified as "high risk" and allowing more fires to be managed for resource benefits. Additional benefits of this project include: promoting aspen regeneration, reducing conifer encroachment, and restoring fire to ponderosa pine and sagebrush fuel types. Reducing the risk of high-intensity wildfire in this area will also protect the Yellowstone River watershed and riparian habitat.

Implementation Plan and Accomplishment to Date: Mechanical thinning, piling, and pile burning have been implemented in ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, and aspen vegetation types. The work has been completed through two service contracts and Forest Service personnel. The majority of the mechanical work has been along the Yellowstone River adjacent to private lands, developed recreation facilities, and administrative facilities. Treatment of 500 acres and burning of 10,000 piles was completed in 2006 and 2007. Wood chipping has also been used as a method of disposing the thinned material. The broadcast burning phase, the use of fire to remove understory of shrubs and grasses, began in the spring of 2007 clearing 1,300 acres. Final pieces of the project include thinning of 1000 acres of sagebrush and 2000 acres of ponderosa pine.

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