



Pipe Spring National Monument Fire Management



Hazard Fuel Reduction Project

When people think of Pipe Spring National Monument, wildland fire is not the first thing that comes to mind. This 40-acre monument, located in Northern Arizona along what is known as the Arizona Strip, is more known for its long period of human occupation dating from Ancestral Puebloans hundreds of years ago to Mormon ranchers in the late 1800s. Even though wildland fire is not a common occurrence in the area, the threat still exists, especially to many of the monument's structures. To reduce this threat, Pipe Spring recently completed a mechanical hazard fuel reduction project.

The six-acre Pipe Spring Hazard Fuels Reduction Project consisted of the mechanical removal of material in and around park residences, maintenance buildings and historic structures that could pose a significant fire risk in the event of a wildland fire. This project is developed and funded under the wildland-urban interface initiative (WUI) program, in cooperation with the National Fire Plan. The objective of this project is to create and maintain a defensible fuel break in and around park infrastructure within the Pipe Spring developed area. This project will not only aid the wildland fire crew in their efforts to manage wildland fires, but also the structural fire crew in their efforts to protect park buildings.

Zion National Park's Hazard Fuels Crew began work on the project at the end of June 2003 and completed it by mid-September. Project treatments included cutting and removing dead and downed trees and reducing fire-prone brush. Treatments were accomplished so as to minimize damage to resources, while still providing defensible space.

Material removed from the project area was hauled away from the monument for disposal. Larger material was cut into firewood sized lengths and stacked on site for park use. The crew worked very closely in the coordination of their activities with the Pipe Spring Maintenance staff. Follow-up treatments may be necessary to maintain desired fuel levels.

While some of units of the NPS are not often thought of as having a wildland fire threat, it certainly doesn't mean that it can't happen. By planning ahead and performing hazard fuel reduction projects like the one at Pipe Spring, these units can reduce the risks from possible wildland fires and thus be able to better protect the many structures that are vital to their operation.



Pipe Spring residential area before treatment.



Pipe Spring residential area after treatment.



Pipe Spring residential area before treatment.



Pipe Spring residential area after treatment.