



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Bumblebee Ridge Fuels Project

Category: Hazardous Fuels Reduction

BLM
Utah

New Harmony, Other Communities, Protected by New Fuel Breaks

The community of New Harmony, Utah, is about 40 miles north of St. George in Southwestern Utah. In 2009, the community was threatened by the Mill Flat Fire, which rapidly approached homes, forced evacuations, burned structures, and caught the community's attention. The BLM is now working with the community, several landowners and State and Federal partners to create fuel breaks to help protect the community from future fires.



Project area near New Harmony, Utah

Skyline Reclamation was awarded a \$129,500 contract for fuels reduction on 740 acres, and completed the work in March 2010. Utah BLM seeded and treated an additional 60 acres. About 200 scattered acres were not treated within the 1,000-acre treatment area because of steep or erodible topography or the sites' importance for wildlife or cultural resources.

Adjacent property owners are working with State agencies on fuels reduction work on their properties. Partners include the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands; U.S. Forest Service, and the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development.

The ARRA-funded Bumblebee Ridge fuels project will reduce hazardous fuels on a 1,000-acre area of public land, thinning high density areas of pinyon-juniper to decrease fire potential adjacent to New Harmony, Bumblebee Ridge and Harmony Mountain Ranches. The Forest Service is constructing a fuel break on adjacent National Forest land to complement this work. The State of Utah and private landowners have also proposed to treat their lands.

In addition to increasing protection from wildland fires, these treatments and seedings also enhance wildlife habitat and improve the health of watersheds and rangelands.

Once these projects are completed, 85 percent of the wildland urban interface in this area will have been treated. The remaining 15 percent consists of areas with steep topography and limited opportunities for treatment.



Similar area treated in 2003 (above) and shown in 2006 (below) with desirable, native and fire-resistant plants.

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U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

