

## Parkway Conducts Contract WUI Projects Natchez Trace Parkway, Mississippi National Fire Plan - Fuels Reduction

The National Park Service Wildland Urban Interface Initiative (WUII) is designed to decrease wildfire hazard in areas where urban environments adjoin wildland areas. Over the past several years, there has been an accumulation hazard fuels including downed limbs, trees, and brush in many locations along the Natchez Trace Parkway. Since the Parkway boundary is adjacent to non-federal lands, both developed and undeveloped, the threat of private property loss from a wildland fire is potentially great.



*Contractors using a chipper to reduce downed woody fuel on a WUI mechanical reduction project at the Natchez Trace Parkway. NPS Photo by Lisa McInnis*

In 2005, Natchez Trace Parkway will contract five WUI projects, totally 206 acres. Contractors will be working to remove hazard fuels along the Parkway in the Natchez,

Ridgeland, Kosciusko and Tupelo Ranger Districts from June through September. Downed woody fuel will be chipped in place or hauled offsite.

Since 2002, Natchez Trace Parkway has contracted over 1,200 acres of WUI projects. The Natchez Trace Parkway Fire Division has three trained Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives (COTR) that administer these contracts. In order to measure fuel reduction, fuels management staff at the Parkway monitor project sites before and after treatment.



*Pre-treatment, WUI mechanical reduction project site at the Natchez Trace Parkway. NPS Photo by Amanda Callis.*

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*Post-treatment, WUI mechanical reduction project site at the Natchez Trace Parkway. NPS Photo by Amanda Callis.*