

Making a Difference Lolo National Forest, Seeley Lake Ranger District, Montana

The Seeley Lake Community Fire Plan is a collaborative effort among area residents, local rural fire districts, private industry, and state and federal land managers. The plan was completed in March 2004, but the idea for the plan arose in 1992 when state and federal fire managers met with members of the Double Arrow subdivision homeowners' association. At the time, the fire hazard in the forest area subdivision was classified as "very high" to "extreme."

The plan outlines goals to treat 900 acres per year of private lands identified as high hazard over a ten-year period. A hazardous fuels task force was established upon completion of the plan. The task force identified priority hazard fuels treatment areas and strategic fuel break areas around the community. Twenty-eight landowners were identified as owning property in these priority areas.

Recently, the task force used the plan to secure an additional \$127,300 of Steven's bill funding for projects through summer of 2005.



Seeley Lake District Ranger Tim Love discusses issues with task force members