

National Fire Plan

Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction

Boise National Forest

Idaho 2002



Fuels management activities near Silver Plunge, a small resort and hot springs site located about 40 miles northwest of Boise, Idaho are progressing with a key 30-acre site completed.



Fire crews worked at the project site in the off-season

A dense stand of lodge pole pine was thinned and mulched during the summer of 2002 using a combination of fire crews, an inmate crew and mulching machinery. Fuel density was reduced from approximately 90 “stems per acre” to 30 stems per acre with a goal to have a 20-foot tree crown clearance between the thinned trees.

The project site abutted private land where 20-30 cabins are located. Tamara Cook, Project Leader said the cabin owners were delighted and very supportive with the operation. They may be further involved if the Student Conservation Association Fire Education Corps establishes contacts in 2003 to assist them in reducing fuel concentrations around their property. Cabin owners were able to buy fuel wood from the project site.

Following the mulching only about 5 acres of slash remains to be treated by prescribed fire. Total cost of the project was approximately \$15,000 and it is located on the Emmett Ranger District of the Boise National Forest.

The completed project is part of an integrated fuels management package, developed through an Environmental Impact Statement, which proposed some commercial timber cuts, thinning, and burning. The site is located in a high fire occurrence area.

Wayne Stephens, owner of the Silver Creek Plunge Resort and Hot Springs said he is very pleased with the work accomplished to date. “I have been in favor of this type of work for some time and would like to see more of it,” Stephens said. “The buffer zone created is great, but I would really like to see it expanded to help stop a hot burning fire from hitting us.” “The more

protection we have deeper into the woods, the greater the safety zone,” he added. “The proposed timber sale nearby should help since they are planning to continue with thinning the forest.”



Cabin still needing treatment



Lodgepole pine forest after thinning



Area near cabin before thinning