

Bannock County Fire Mitigation Action Plan Amendment 7/20/2007

Fire Mitigation Goals

- **Emphasize prevention of wildland urban interface fires using a proactive, cooperative approach.**
- **Ensure that the land development ordinances and building codes in Bannock County support mitigation of wildland urban interface fire danger.**
- **Promote effective fuel reduction programs in all wildland urban interface areas in Bannock County.**
- **Promote the development of water resources for wildland firefighting throughout Bannock County.**
- **Facilitate a County-wide mutual aid agreement.**
- **Produce and distribute functional maps for rural Departments.**
- **Provide wildfire training class for Road & Bridge Department**

Fire Mitigation Actions

- **Prevention-promote local jurisdictions working together and with Federal and State agencies to establish on-going local prevention programs. Encourage all rural districts to become Firewise Communities.**
- **Wildland Fire Code-institute a working group to include local jurisdictions and County Officials to develop and adopt a county Wildland Urban Interface Fire Code.**
- **Fuel Reduction-Encourage each local jurisdiction to identify a priority fuel reduction program and a plan to get the program started.**
Work closely with the BLM and Forest Service fuel reduction projects. Many of these projects will require participation from both Federal Lands and Private landowners to be successful
- **Water Resources-institute a working group to evaluate the water supply issue within the County. This should include both fixed and mobile supply issues.**

Forest Service Update:

General Overview of Fuels Management Projects in Bannock County, Idaho:

The Westside Range District is actively managing wildland fuel within and out of the wildland urban interface in Bannock County. Several projects have been completed, are underway, or are in the planning phase. (see table below)

The Westside Ranger District is using prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to manage fuel loadings. The District is also working with Idaho Department of Lands, the Bureau of Land Management, 3 Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council and Gateway Interagency Fire Front as well as local landowners to coordinate efforts and resources for effective management of the wildland fuels situation in Bannock County.
See attached map.

Past, Present and Future Fuels Management Projects

| <u>Project Name</u> | <u>Type of Work</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Year Complete</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Gibson – Slate I | RX Burn | 100 | 2000 |
| Gibson – Slate II | RX Burn | 100 | 2001 |
| Gibson – Slate III | RX Burn | 100 | 2002 |
| Gibson – Slate IV | RX Burn | 100 | 2004 |
| Gibson – Slate V | RX Burn | 100 | 2004 |
| Gibson – Slate VI | RX Burn | 100 | 2004 |
| Kinney Creek | Mechanical | 75 | 2003 |
| Scout Mountain | Mechanical | 85 | 2004 |
| Summit | Mechanical | 50 | 2004 |
| Gibson Jack Trail – Upper | Mechanical | 50 | 2004 |
| Gibson Jack | RX Burn | 470 | 2004 |
| Mud Springs | RX Burn | 100 | 2004 |
| Bighorn | RX Burn | 25 | 2004 |
| Dry Creek | RX Burn | 65 | 2004 |
| Mink Creek | RX Burn | 45 | 2005 |
| Gibson Jack Fence | Mechanical | 15 | 2006 |
| Watershed Road | Mechanical | 90 | 2006 |
| Gale Mountain | RX Burn | 120 | 2006 |
| Lead Draw | RX Burn | 100 | 2006 |
| Wild Horse Mtn. | RX Burn | 306 | 2006 |
| Gibson Jack Trail – Lower | Mechanical | 45 | 2007 |
| Buck – Doe RX | RX Burn | 175 | 2007 |
| XC Ski Areas | Mechanical | 500 | 2007 |
| Blind Spring RX | RX Burn | 3700 | 2008 |
| Pebble Creek Ski Area | Mech/Burn | 300 | 2008 |
| Westfork | Mech/Burn | 100 | 2008 |
| Kinney Creek | RX Burn | 200 | 2009 |
| South Mink | RX Burn | 600 | 2009 |

BLM Update: see attached maps, no narrative available at this time.

Pocatello Fire Department/Three Rivers RC&D Council Wildland Fire Education and Prevention Program update: Johnny Creek Fire Wise Community

Johnny Creek (a subdivision of Pocatello, Idaho) became a nationally recognized 'Fire Wise Community' in May of 2005. Johnny Creek 'Fire Wise Community' is the largest of the 'Fire Wise Communities' nationally with over 700 homes. The entire subdivision is located among heavy juniper trees and has been a high fire risk for many years.

In 1987, the Johnny Creek Fire threatened the entire subdivision. During that fire one home was destroyed and two were damaged. The subdivision was evacuated due to the fire. Fire Departments from S.E. Idaho, Bureau of Land Management, and US Forest Service combined efforts to suppress the fire. Over 500 firefighters were on the fire. Efforts were successful in saving the subdivision primarily due to the fact that the wind died down significantly towards evening of the first day of the fire. The Gateway Interagency Fire Front (GIFF) was formed as a result of the fire to facilitate a cooperative task force that could respond to fires throughout northern Bannock County. GIFF has been the impetus for many of the fire prevention and education programs and projects such as Firewise, USA and fuel reduction projects in the wildland urban interface.

Numerous fuel reduction projects (cost share, multi-home, large landscape fuel reductions) have taken place in the Johnny Creek Subdivision and are expanding with the growing interest of the homeowners. Homeowner evaluations and education efforts are the base for all of the fuel reduction projects. At least two (2) more significant fuel reduction projects in the major drainages within Johnny Creek are needed to effectively reduce the threat of a catastrophic fire. Home evaluations and cost share assistance for defensible space for the homes sitting adjacent to the major drainages is also needed to complete the community fuel breaks.

Bannock County/Three Rivers RC&D Wildland Fire Education and Prevention Program (WFEP) update:

Wildland Fire Codes and Water Supply: Adopted by Bannock County, see attachment

Critical Areas:

Lava Ranch Estates represents one of the worst case scenarios for a catastrophic wildland fire resulting in untold damage and endangering human lives. This area in southern Bannock County was developed over the past twenty years without codes or road standards. The area covers approximately five thousand acres of mountainous terrain among dense fir trees, juniper trees, maple and quaking aspen. The area is bordered by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. BLM has completed extensive hazardous fuels reduction work for several years on the border of Lava Ranch Estates. The area is designated by BLM as one of importance to them for future educational and fuel reduction projects. BLM and Three Rivers WFEP will undoubtedly collaborate on efforts in the area as they have on many others.

Three Rivers RC&D sponsors an annual fuel reduction assistance program by contracting with a local individual to assist local property owners in removing fuels (chipping). After a home evaluation is completed by the WFEP the homeowner creates a defensible space by removing the prescribed material.

Approximately 500 property owners live within the Lava Ranch Estates area. The Association has expressed willingness and support for many of the programs and projects suggested by Bannock County, Three Rivers RC&D WFEP and Lava Hot Springs Fire Department to reduce the high risk of wildfire in the area. However, because the area is so large, difficult to access, and the work needed so massive, the work done to date represents only a 'drop in the bucket'. Cost estimates to remove the material are in the millions of dollars.

As a result, the Association, Bannock County, Lava Hot Springs Fire Department and Three Rivers WFEP will seek out alternatives to cutting and piling such as *Fuels For Schools and Beyond* and other biomass utilization programs. Three Rivers WFEP has already sponsored two informational workshops on *Fuels for Schools and Beyond*. The interest is there from the school district, city officials, the Association, and Idaho State University. A biomass utilization feasibility study will be necessary to determine if the material within Bannock County can support some sort of enterprise. The study will include other private lands as well as public lands, agricultural biomass and landfill material.

Completed Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

The following projects have been cut and piled with pile burning in fall 2007 or spring 2008.

1. Buckskin II – Map – Scrap 2
2. Portneuf West Bench, DeSano – Map – Scrap 3
3. Johnny Creek – PAC Project – Caribou – Map – Scrap 4
4. Mink Creek – PAC Project – Aspen – Map – Scrap 5
5. Beehive – Buckskin Project – Picture 1

Current Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

1. Pocatello Creek - Whispering Pines – PAC Project – Picture 2
2. Pocatello Creek - Sunset and DeWall – PAC Project – Picture 3
3. Pocatello Creek - Trayis Ridge – PAC Project – Picture 4

Future Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

Areas of concern identified that require wildland fire education and prevention assistance and hazardous fuels projects - within the 'Wildland Urban Interface' and that border hazardous fuels reduction projects that have taken place/are ongoing/or are planned on public lands.

1. Lava Ranch Estates – Lava Rural Fire District (Map - Bannock_Fuels_lava.jpg)
2. West Side Buckskin – North Bannock County Fire District (Map Bannock_Fuels.jpg)
3. East Side Buckskin – North Bannock County Fire District & Jackson Creek Fire District. (Map – Bannock_Fuels.jpg)

4. Mink Creek – Pocatello Valley Fire District
5. Gibson Jack – Pocatello Valley Fire District
6. Johnny Creek – Pocatello Fire Department
7. Pocatello Creek – North Bannock Fire District (Map – Bannock_Fuels.jpg)
8. North West Corner Bannock County – Between I-15 – Fort Hall Indian Reservation – Chubbuck Rd. – North Bannock County Fire District (Map – Bannock_Fuels.jpg)

20 July 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed are some of the updates to the Bannock County Wildfire Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan.

A comprehensive update has been underway by way of the Bannock County 'All Hazard Mitigation Plan' – which is under contract to be completed.

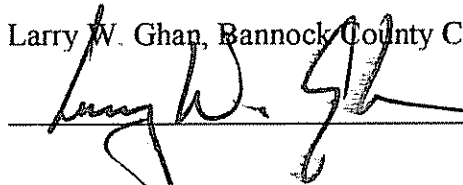
The submission of this update is necessary in order to meet certain timelines for Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service having 'Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects' identified in Bannock Counties Wildfire Urban Interface Plan'.

The final update of Bannock County Wildfire Urban Interface Plan will be forth coming and will be included in the Counties 'All Hazard Mitigation Plan'

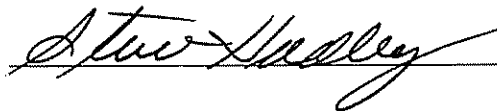
Thank You

Sincerely,

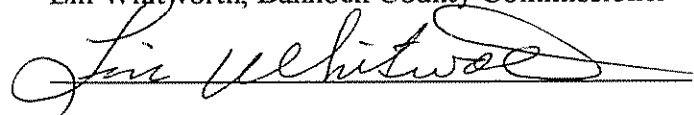
Larry W. Ghan, Bannock County Commissioner



Steve Hadley, Bannock County Commissioner



Lin Whitworth, Bannock County Commissioner



Attest.

DALE HATCH

By Cindy Hapeworth, Deputy Clerk

'Wildland Urban Interface Codes Adopted in Bannock County'

Bannock County, the County Fire Chiefs, County Fire Commissioners, Bannock County Planning and Zoning, BLM, US Forest Service, Three Rivers RC&D, and the Board of Bannock County Commissioners have worked cooperatively to adopt codes for new construction in the 'Wildland Urban Interface' areas in Bannock County.

The 'Fire Wise' principles adopted under these codes have been proven to increase the survivability of a home in a wildland fire by approximately 90%. Having new construction adhere to these 'Fire Wise' principles will also increase the safety of fire fighters throughout Bannock County who are called upon to protect structures and wildlands during these fires.

Each Fire District in Bannock County will have the opportunity to adopt these codes when the 'Wildland Urban Interface' areas are identified and mapped within their fire districts and the fire district indicates they are ready to enforce the codes.

The codes will require new construction in an identified 'Wildland Urban Interface' area to construct with a (1) Fire resistive roof. (2) Adequate defensible space around the structure. (3) Open areas under decks or structure that are close to the ground to be screened or covered to keep sparks from accumulating under these areas. (4) Non-combustible rain gutters (5) Eaves, fascias, and soffits to be boxed or enclosed with materials other than PVC or vinyl. (6) Vents to be covered with non-combustible screening with no larger than ¼ inch opening. (7) Approved spark arrestors around the mouth of chimneys, stove pipes, or vent of any heater. (8) Exterior walls to be fire resistive (9) L-P tanks to be located within the defensible space area and safe distance from structure. (10) Storage of fire wood or combustible materials to be 20 ft. from structure unless protected.

Appendix H

Water Supply Requirements For Residential Development Outside Of Incorporated Cities -Bannock County-

Section H 101 General

Scope The intent of this appendix shall be for the improvement of fire flow water supplies within the respective fire district within Bannock County and is intended to apply to all areas outside Incorporated Cities that are within Fire District Boundaries and areas that are outside of Fire District Boundaries. There will be no requirement to install water systems for fire purposes for single residential construction.

H 101.1

When subdivisions are constructed the following fire flow water systems will be required:

- A. All water supply systems will need to meet the approval of the Fire District Fire Chief or Official Code Official of the Fire District.
- B. Required fire flows will meet design criteria to allow for consumption of water so fire flows will be available at all times of day or year
- C. Water systems will be accessible for fire department equipment at all times.
- D. Water systems will be maintained by the developer or homeowners association.
- E. Water systems will be able to be used by the fire department for testing – training – fire suppression in the subdivision or other areas deemed necessary by the fire department.
- F. The fire district may require the water supply system to be functional and meet all fire department requirements before construction of structures begins in the subdivision.
- E. If all homes in the subdivision have an approved sprinkler system the fire flow requirements will be 50% of the requirements listed below.

2 to 10 lots –

A water supply capacity able to produce a minimum flow of 500 gallons per minute for a period of 20 minutes. -10,000 gallons-

11 to 20 lots –

A water supply capacity able to produce a minimum flow of 500 gallons per minute for a period of 30 minutes. -15,000 gallons-

21 to 30 lots –

A water supply capacity able to produce a minimum flow of 500 gallons per minute for a period of 45 minutes. – 22,500 gallons-

31 to 40 lots –

Appendix H – Cont.

A water supply capacity able to produce a minimum flow of 500 gallons per minute for a period of 60 minutes. – 30,000 gallons –

41 to 50 lots-

A water supply capacity able to produce a minimum flow of 500 gallons per minute for a period of 75 minutes. -37,500 gallons-

51 to 60 lots

A water supply system able to produce a minimum flow of 500 gallons per minute for a period of 90 minutes. -45,000 gallons-

For subdivisions over 61 lots and larger

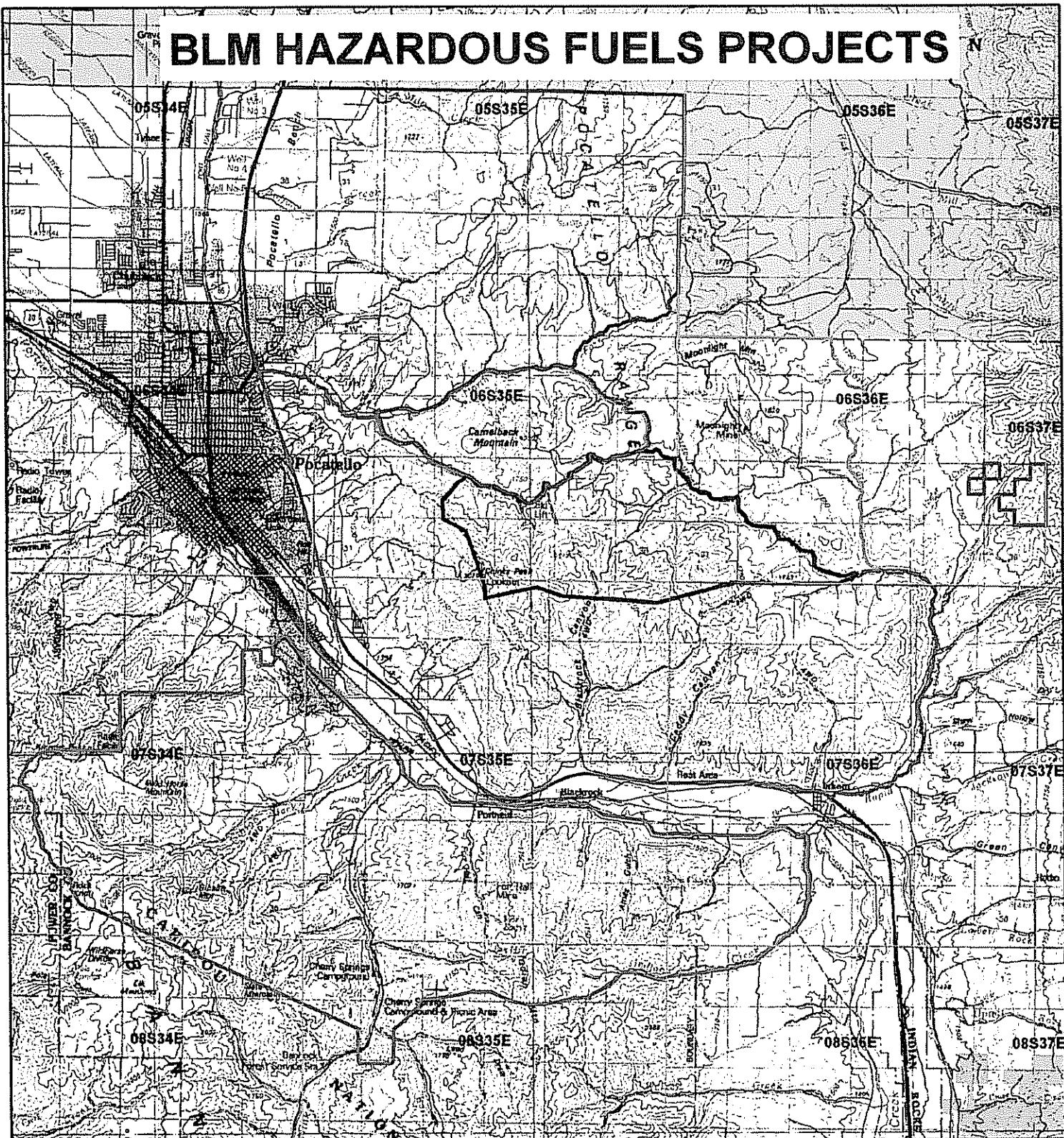
A water supply system able to produce a minimum flow of 500 gallons per minute for a period of 90 minutes. – 45,000 gallons –








For any large subdivisions – 150 lots or more –

The fire district may require additional water supply requirements. Each subdivision that is 150 lots or more will be reviewed on a case by cases basis by the fire district.

Whenever a subdivision is proposed that is close to a City water system and it is feasible to connect to the City water system the developer and City are encouraged to do so.

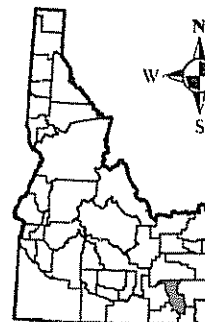
BLM HAZARDOUS FUELS PROJECTS



-  BLACKROCK
-  BUCKSKIN
-  CAMELBACK
-  MOONLIGHT
-  POCATELLO N.E.
-  PORTNEUF
-  SAWMILL

-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Indian Reservation
-  State of Idaho
-  US Forest Service
-  Private

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

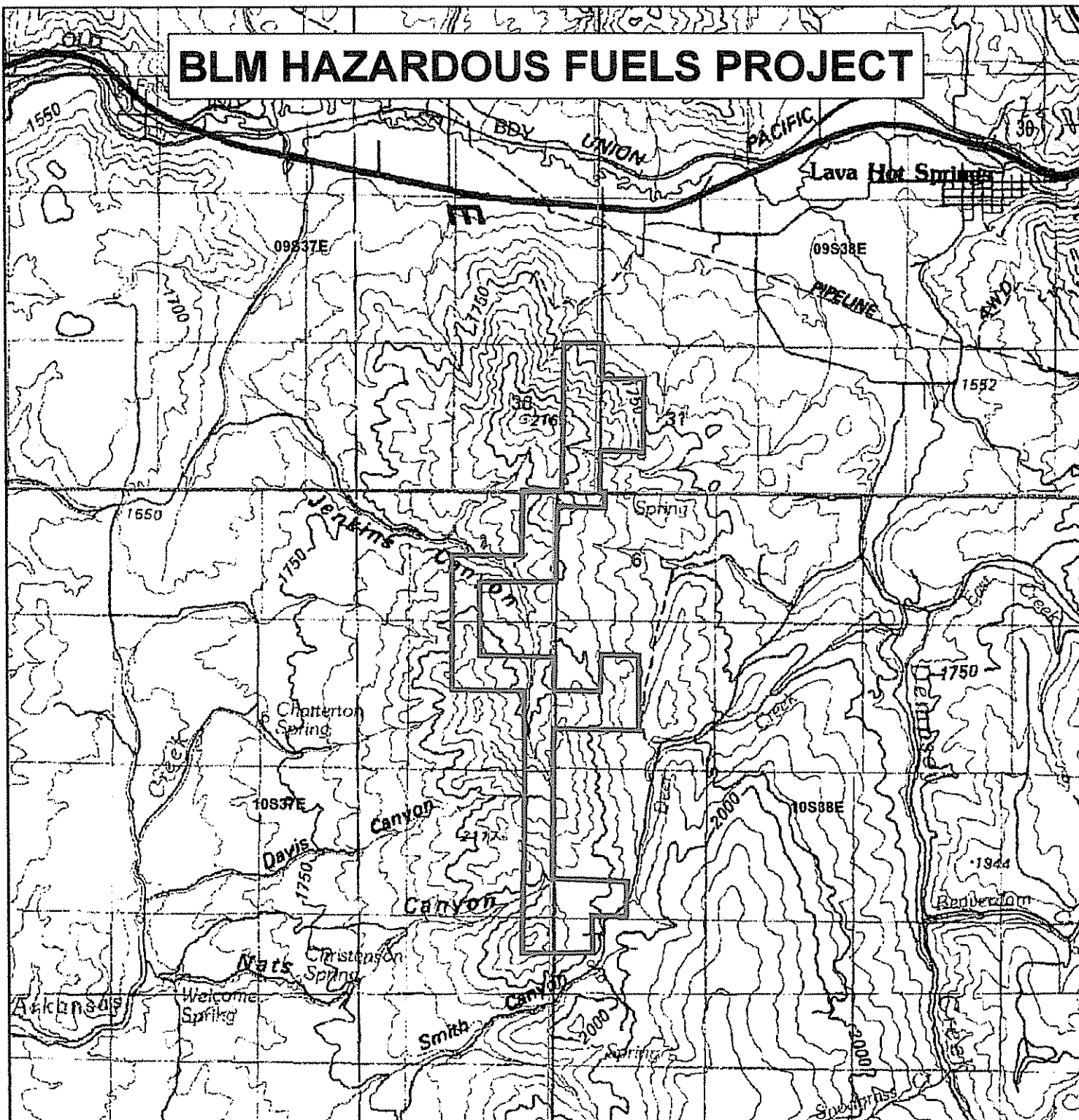


Map Produced by the Bureau of Land Management
and the Department of the Interior
DRAFT



Map Produced 1/29/2007
Greg Mann

BLM HAZARDOUS FUELS PROJECT



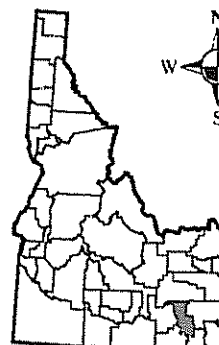
LAVA

Bureau of Land Management



State of Idaho

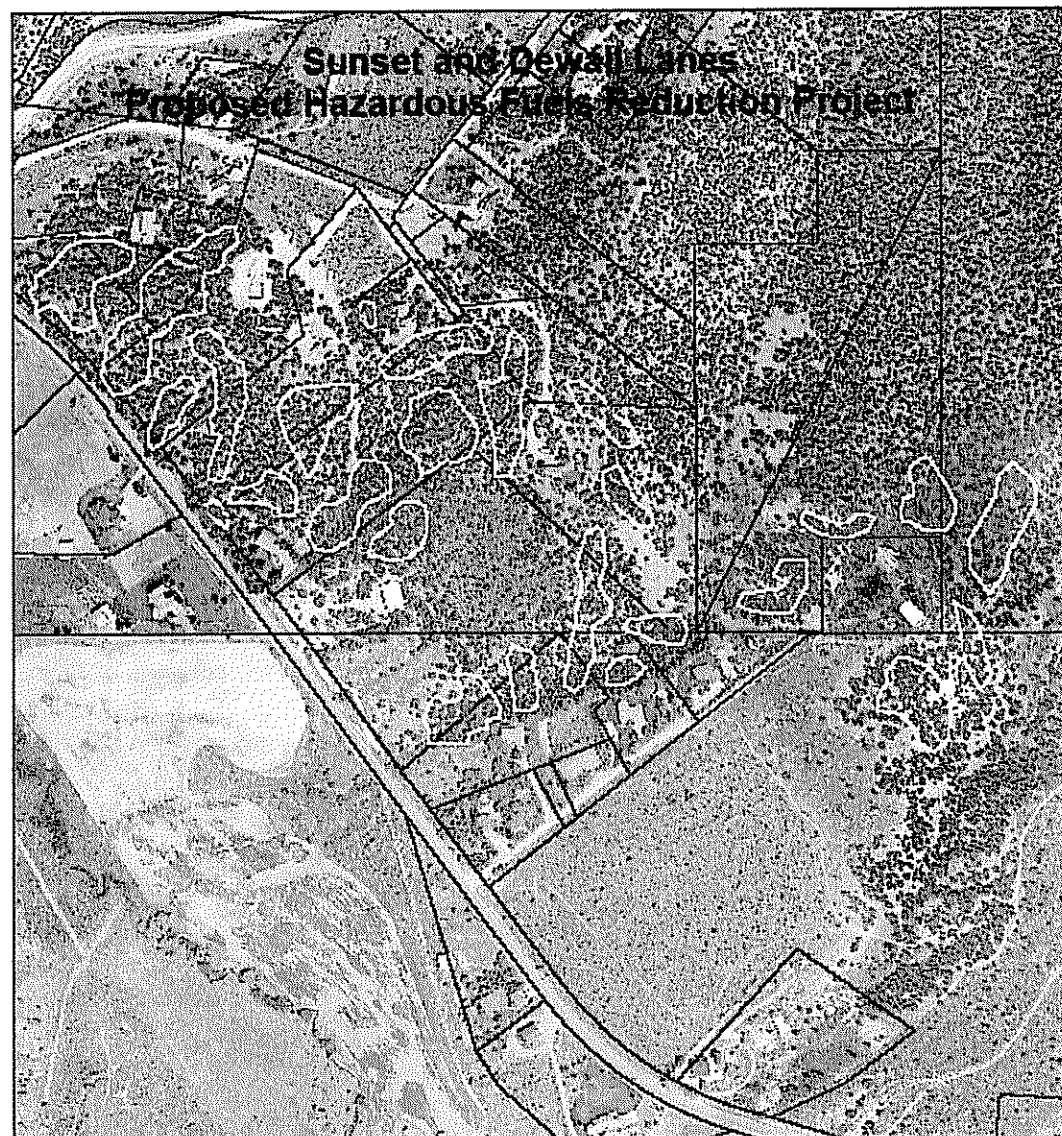
Private



Not to be used for any purpose other than the one for which it was prepared and intended by the BLM.
DRAFT



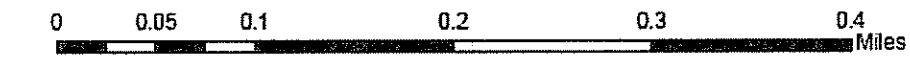
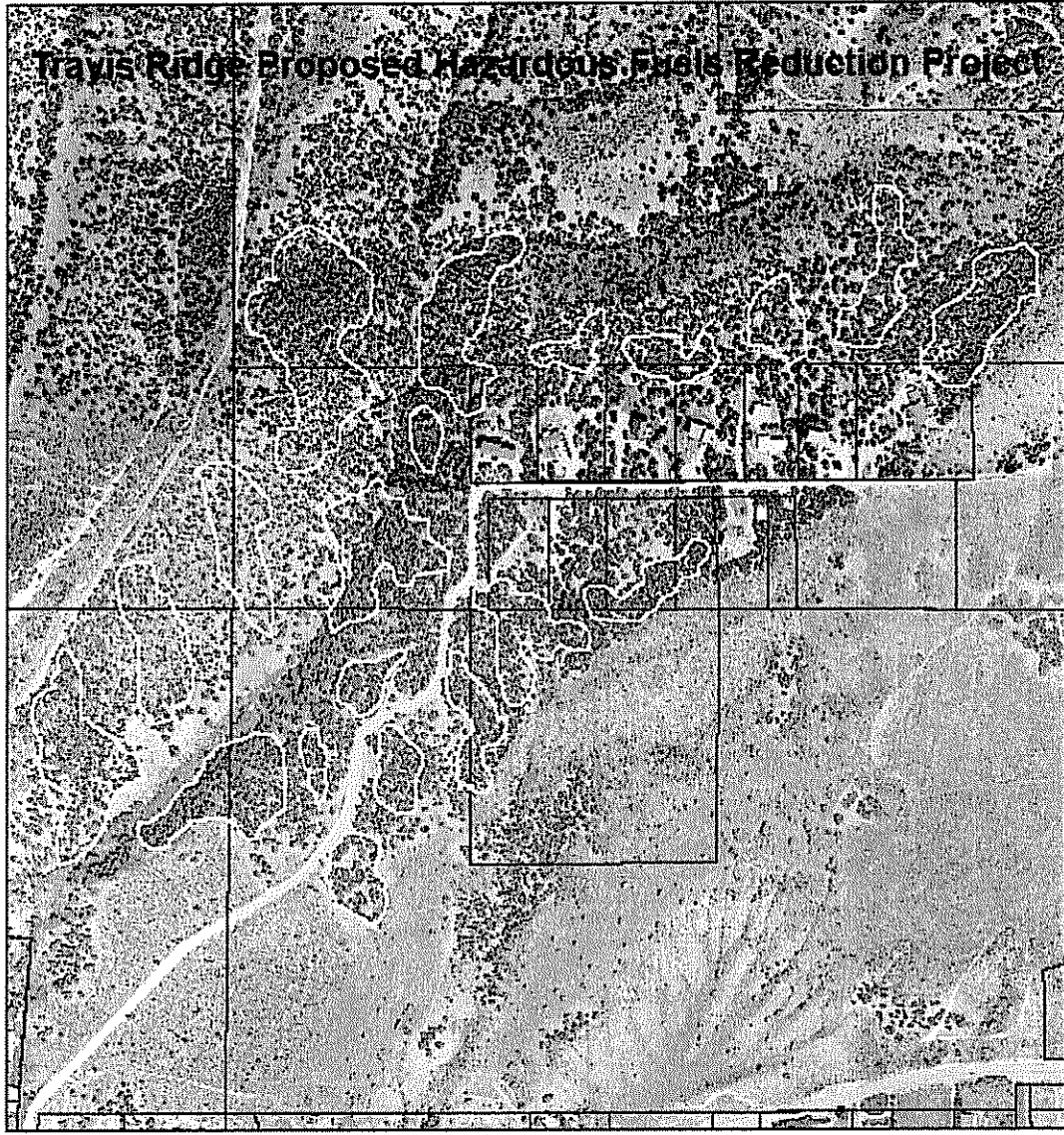
Map Produced 1/20/2007
Greg Mann



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles

proposed openings (12.5 acres)
property boundaries





proposed openings (20 acres)
property boundaries





0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.9 Miles

proposed thinning units (82 acres)




Proposed Whispering Pines Hazardous Fuels Project

Buckskin Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Beehive Unit



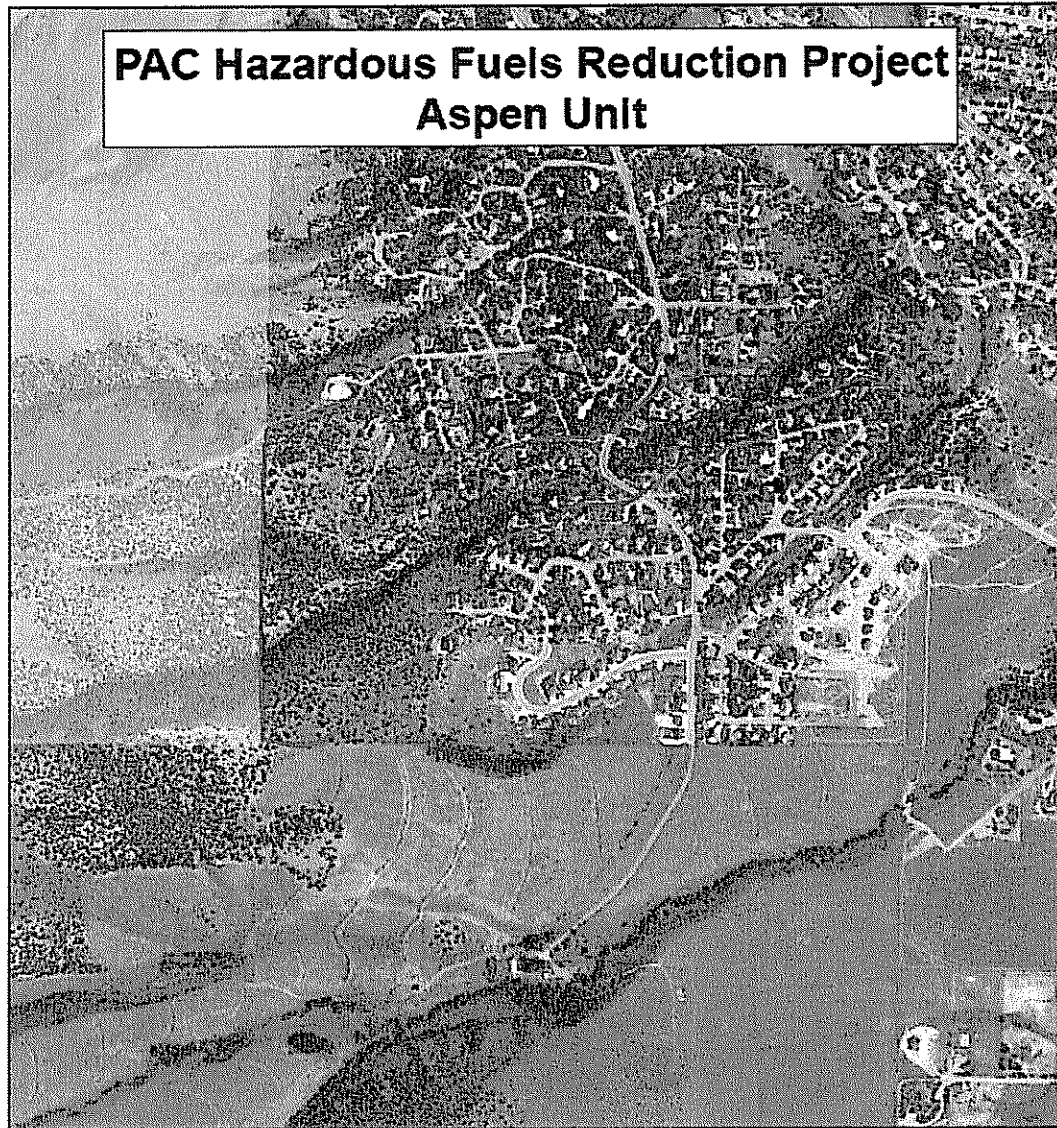
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles

T. 6S R.35E Section 35
Boise Meridian

 Beehive Unit (162 acres thinned/piled)




PAC Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Aspen Unit



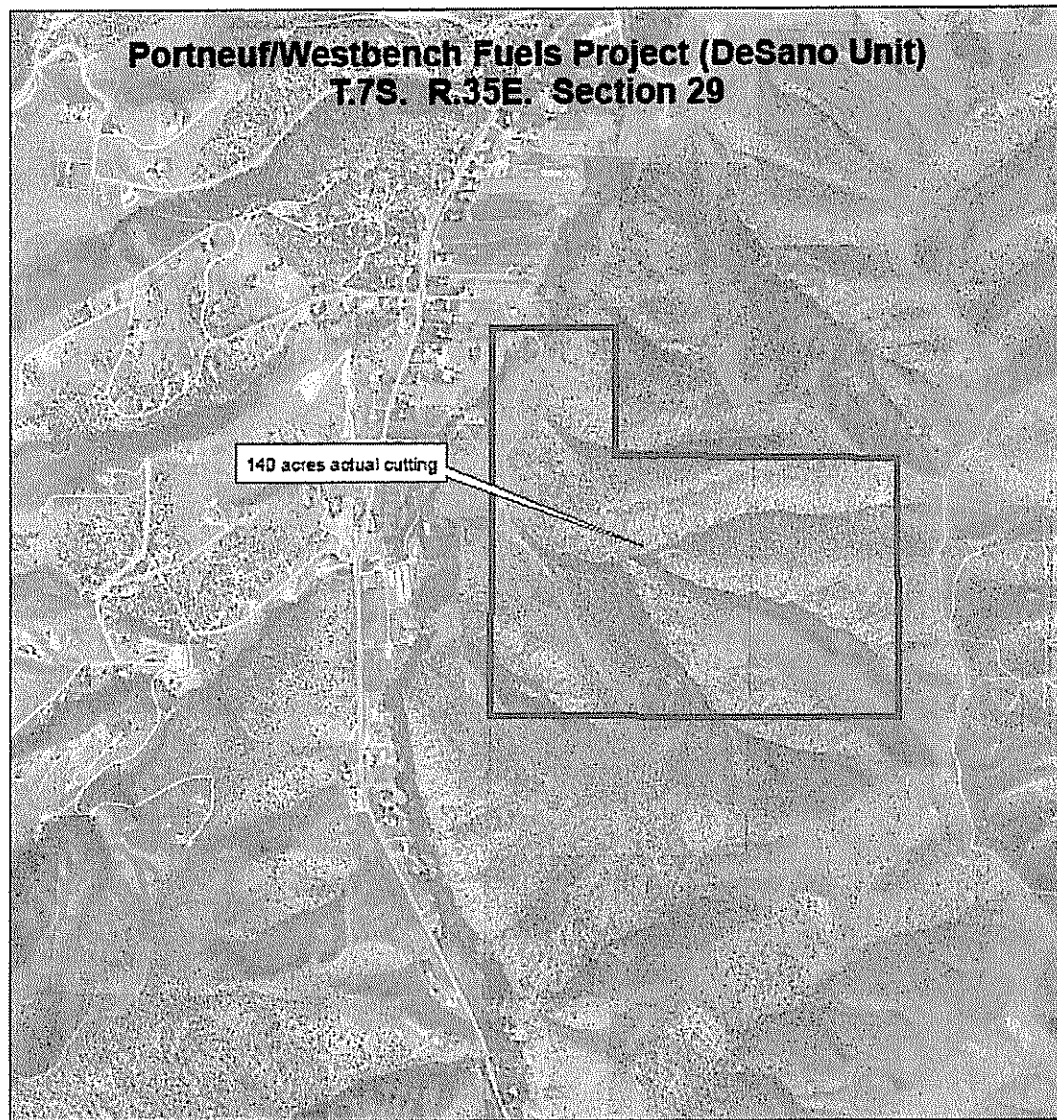
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

T.7S, R.34E, Section 13
Boise Meridian

 Aspen Unit Boundary (77 acres total - 16 acres cut/pile)



Portneuf/Westbench Fuels Project (DeSano Unit)
T.7S. R.35E. Section 29



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

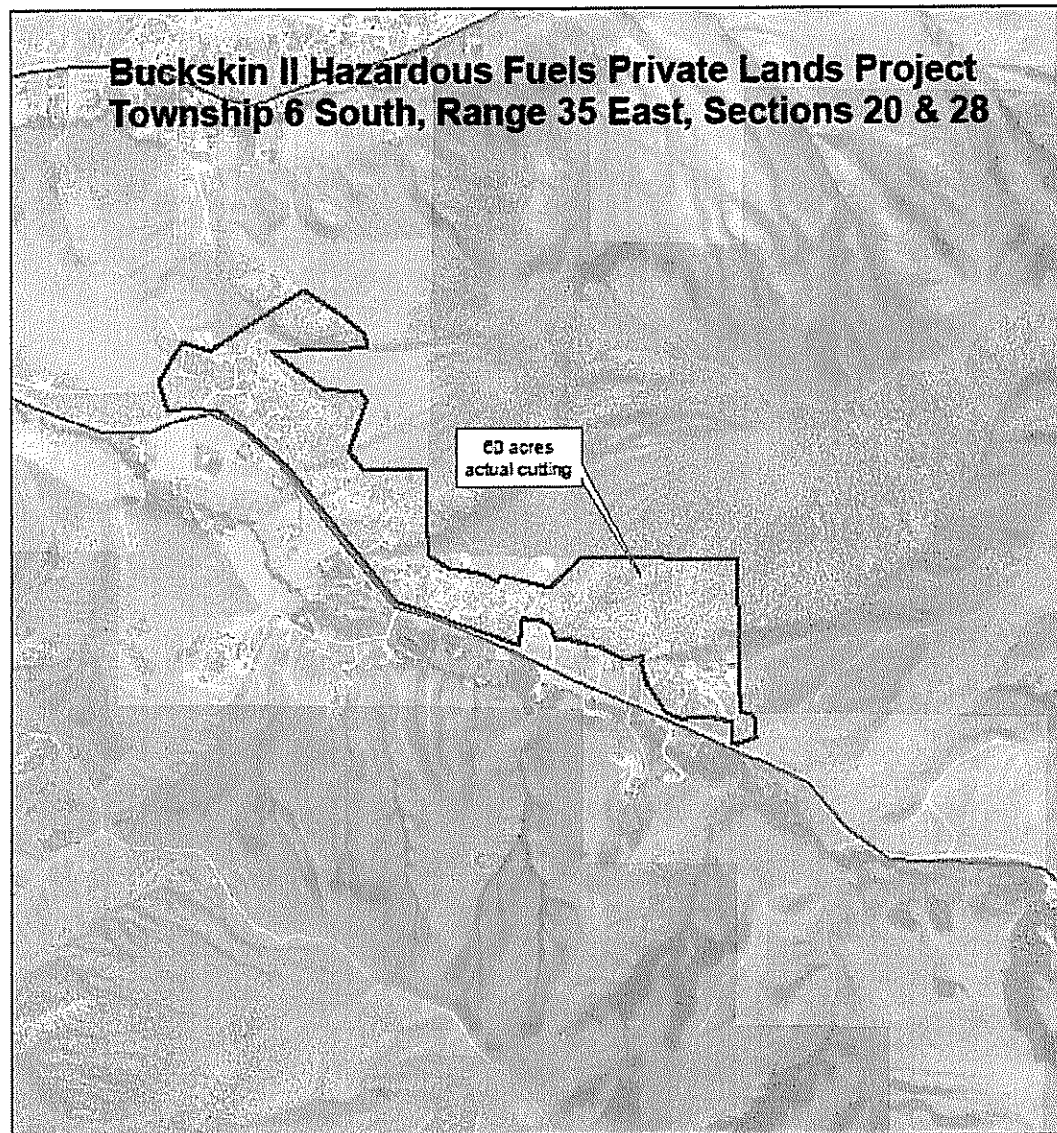
 Project Boundary

 BLM





 PRIVATE



**Buckskin II Hazardous Fuels Private Lands Project
Township 6 South, Range 35 East, Sections 20 & 28**



0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles

-  Buckskin II Project Boundary
-  Private Lands Treatment - 100 acres
-  BLM
-  PRIVATE



