

Making a Difference Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area-Washington and Oregon



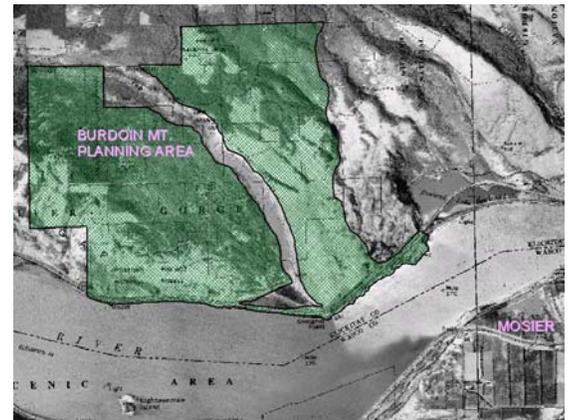
1) The difference between existing and desired conditions and the location within a WUI represented a need for management action. The purposes of the thinning were:

- Reduce the risk of high intensity wildfires that have the potential to result in catastrophic loss of life, property, and treasured natural resources.
- Promote more open stands of large trees, and restore ecological stability of the plant communities and the role of low

intensity fire.

- Improve public and firefighter safety during initial attack of low to moderate intensity wildfires by creating defensible space and safety areas in strategic locations.

The Forest Service accomplished a reduction of hazardous accumulations of forest fuels in the Wildland-Urban Interface areas on Burdoin Mountain and increased the ecological stability by removing or thinning trees 8 inches or less in diameter at breast height (DBH). The resultant slash piles will be burned in fall 2004. Of the project 386 acres, 191 were thinned in November of 2003. While no commercial timber harvest was used, some of the thinned trees were made available to the public for firewood.



3) The main two accomplishments were that the local community is grateful that we were able to get the thinning done (HFRA provided the framework to allow it to become a priority) and that we were able to get a good start on improving the resiliency of the ecosystem.





CANOPY CLOSURE AFTER TREATMENT 65%

CANOPY CLOSURE BEFORE TREATMENT 80%



MONITORING PLOT AFTER TREATMENT



MONITORING PLOT BEFORE TREATMENT