

Rosebud Agency Fire Management Maintains Miles of Fuels Breaks

The Crazy Horse Canyon on the Rosebud Reservation in Southern South Dakota consists of fuels models containing grass, timber, as well as hardwood and timber litter. These fuel types combined with steep slopes and extremely high winds can subject firefighters to extremely rapid changes in fire behavior during most of the fire season. To help control wildfires and keep firefighters safe, the Rosebud Agency Fire Crew maintains 530 miles of fuels breaks in and around the Crazy Horse Canyon.

The 530 miles of fuels breaks are made up of sandy soils which can be highly erodible and have equipment limitations. In order for the fuels breaks to be both effective and non-destructive to the surrounding area, Rosebud Agency Fire Management has entered into contracts with two other Tribal departments.



Fuel Break on the Rosebud Reservation

Rosebud Agency Fire Management has entered into a contract with the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Roads Department to haul gravel to some of the fuels breaks that have steeper slopes and are prone to washout to help stabilize the erosion problem. Rosebud Fire Management has also entered into a thinning contract with the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Forestry Department to do 220 acres of thinning for 2006 on some of the fuel breaks.

Some of the other mechanical treatments that Rosebud Fire Management use on the fuels breaks are blading, dozer work, mowing, disking, thinning, piling slash, and burning or chipping slash. Woods chips are also used to help stabilize some of the fuels breaks. Similar mechanical treatments are being done on the Rosebud Reservation in the Wildland/Urban Interface areas around the three communities of St. Francis, Grass Mountain, and Two Strike that surround the Crazy Horse Canyon.

Contact: Keith Robertson, Rosebud Agency 605.747.2700