

# National Fire Plan

## Watershed Management and Wildland Fire

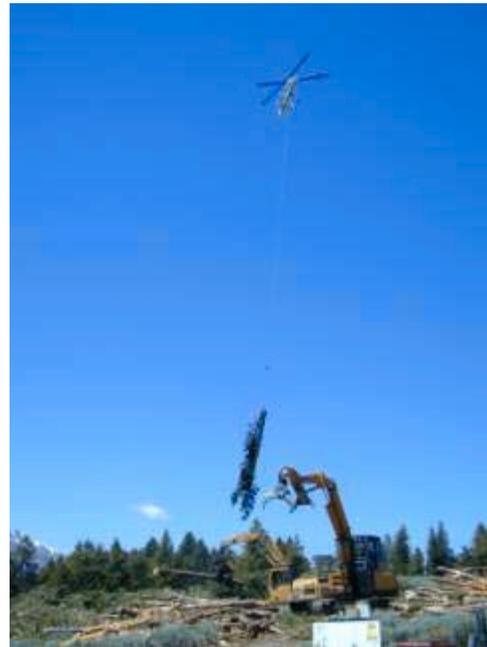


*Oregon* - In Baker City, Ore., the National Fire Plan is making a difference in the watershed that serves as a source of drinking water for this town and its surrounding communities. In the past two years, the federal government has spent \$2.2 million dollars for projects intended to protect the 10,000- acre watershed from wildland fire.

If a fire burned a significant portion of the watershed, the city might have to build a water filtration plant according to Dick Fleming, the city's public works director.

The USDA Forest Service started a project in spring 2001 where they built a 630-acre shaded fuelbreak along a ridge above Elk Creek, at the south end of the watershed, to protect the watershed from a wildland fire. A shaded fuelbreak is a place where trees are thinned to leave more space between the ones left standing. Workers haul away or burn the underbrush and fallen limbs, which, if left on the ground, can keep a fire going.

In summer 2001, the Forest Service received an additional \$607,000 through the National Fire Plan, which has expanded the watershed project by 314 acres. In addition, the agency hired a local contractor to assist with the project. The city has also received more than \$55,000 to thin about a 100 acres of the 160 acres it owns along Elk Creek and \$135,000 to do similar work along the road where the city's main water pipeline is buried.



*Building the fuelbreak*

Once all the projects are completed, city officials will be more confident in firefighters' abilities to keep a fire from burning into the heart of the watershed .



*Thinning the forest*



*Forest after treatment*

For additional information on the National Fire Plan, visit [www.fireplan.gov](http://www.fireplan.gov)