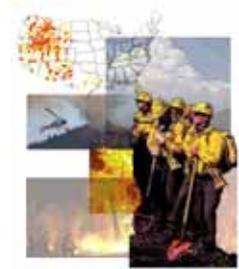


National Fire Plan Hazardous Fuels Reduction Nevada



The BLM Winnemucca Field Office created three fuel breaks along highway rights-of-way in June 2001, in cooperation with the State of Nevada Department of Transportation. Since then, BLM has completed maintenance and extensions of three major fuel breaks. Included are a 70 mile stretch along State Highway 95, north of Winnemucca, 26 miles along State Highway 447, south of Empire and Gerlach, and 40 miles along State Highway 140 South of Denio. According to Mike Whalen, fire ecologist for BLM Winnemucca, "The original concept for creating highway fuel breaks was to protect the \$8 million dollar investment used for fire rehabilitation efforts." These fuel breaks stopped two fires along state highways in August 2001. In 2002, a driver ignited a blaze along a 10-mile stretch of highway. When firefighters arrived at the scene, they found that much of the fire had been stopped by the fuel break on the west side of the road. As a result, those September 2 Andorno Complex fires consumed only 12 acres. The fuel breaks have successfully protected BLM's fire rehabilitation work and reduced the risk to local citizens, ranches and the public.



Highway 95 fuel break at the Wilson ranch on Andorno Creek. This was the closest the fire came to ranch structures. The fuel break protected the ranch.