

National Fire Plan

Lassen National Forest
Pacific Southwest Region
2002



Hat Creek Ranger District Mastication Project

The Hat Creek Ranger District has timber and brush covered lands directly adjacent to the populated communities of Cassel, Burney and Johnson Park. The vegetation within these areas is highly flammable and when wildfires occur they result in a considerable risk to the homes and property within these communities. These areas are typical Eastside Ponderosa Pine type and the usual methods of treatment would be to reintroduce fire into the stands to reduce the flammability. But as can be seen in the photos below, the brush and small diameter trees create too much of a fire ladder to successfully underburn the surface fuels without extensive damage to the residual vegetation.



So prior to underburning, the stand was masticated using a Franklin Tree Farmer with a masticator head. This adequately prepared the site for underburning and at the same time removed unwanted competition from brush and overstocked trees from the stand. This was all accomplished with National Fire Plan fuels treatment dollars.



For additional information on the National Fire Plan, visit www.fireplan.gov