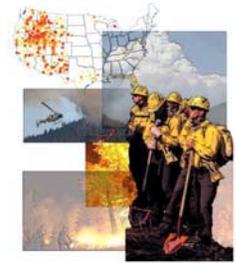


National Fire Plan

Ponderosa Pine Plantation Thinning

Idaho

2002



The Emmett Ranger District on the Boise National Forest in central Idaho tackled a growing fuels problem in the rural, Garden Valley area with a mix of tools. The Alder Ridge Thinning Project was developed in part to protect large, contiguous acres of pine plantations. In addition, Wildland Urban Interface treatments were included due to the nearby community and other outlying residences.



Thinned portion of project area.



Mulched site.

Approximately 7,000 acres were targeted for pre-commercial thinning by hand or mechanical methods. In 2001, a total of 1,023 acres were treated and a contract was awarded to treat an additional 85 acres in 2002 using National Fire Plan funds. A unique project aspect was the use of mulching equipment at key sites such as ridge tops and along roads, where fire suppression could be more effectively conducted in the event of a wildland fire. In addition prescribed burning of natural fuels will take place on about 730 acres.



Plantation site before treatment.



Thinned site before mulching. Some areas were left unmulched.