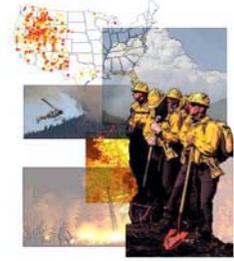


National Fire Plan

The Blue Ridge Urban Interface Project and the Springer Fire Arizona 2002



Project Scope: The Blue Ridge Urban Interface project was designed to reduce fire risk around 10 subdivisions totaling over 1,000 homes located on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest in northern Arizona. The Decision Notice (signed March 13, 2001) allows for fuel reduction efforts of 10,549 acres of prescribed burning and 8,158 acres of precommercial thinning of ponderosa pine trees.

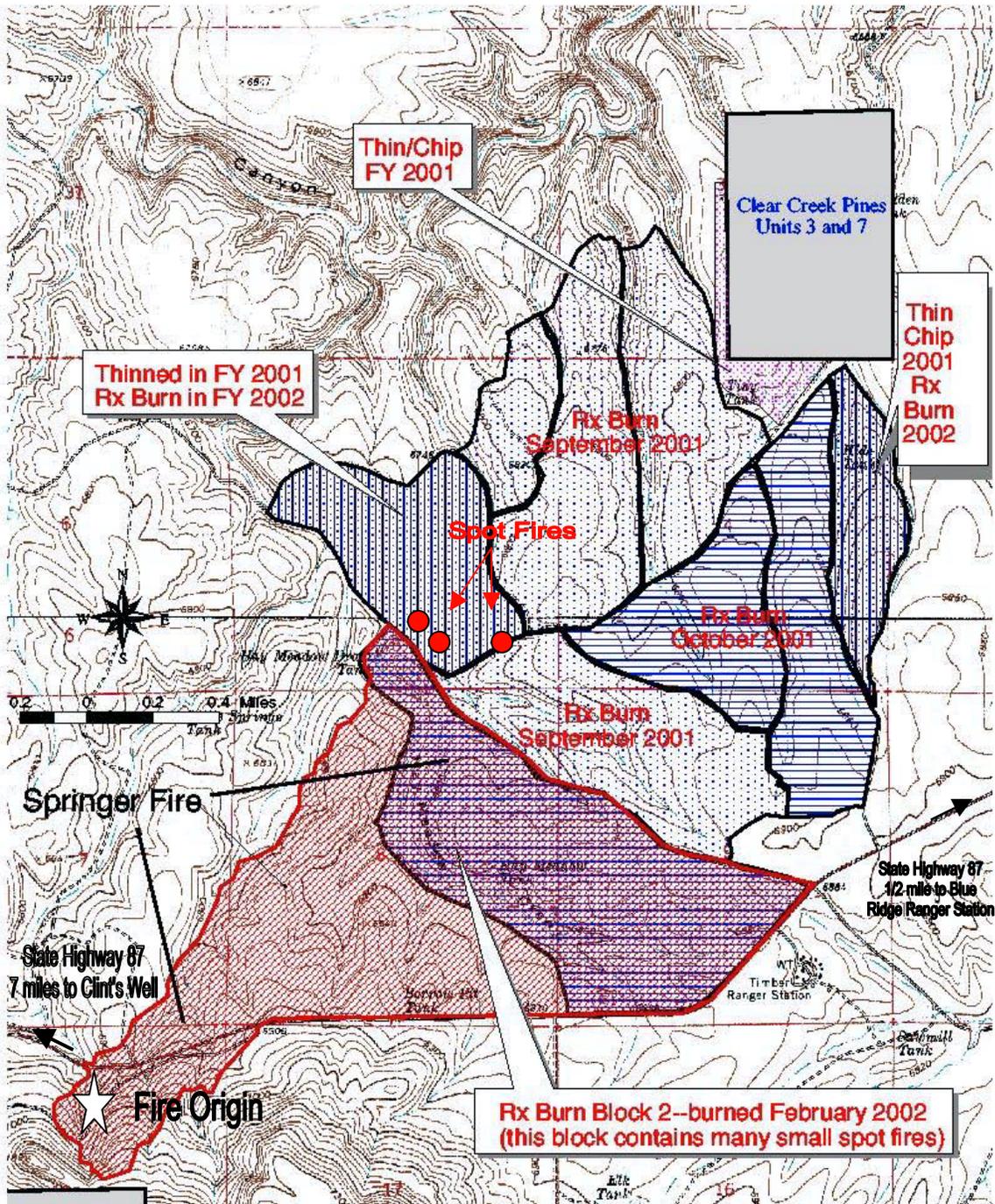
Project Implementation: Project implementation began in September of 2001. The project was funded with National Fire Plan dollars. In FY 2001, 1,230 acres were burned at a cost of \$155,000 or \$126/acre. An additional 1,600 acres were precommercially thinned at a cost of \$154/acre. Fuels treatment of the thinning slash on 170 acres adjacent to the private land was by chipping, at a cost of \$60,000, or \$352/acre. In FY 2002, 3,000 acres of prescribed burning have been accomplished to date at a cost of \$319,000, or \$106/acre. Approximately 50 acres of the chipping has been completed to date, and additional thinning, chipping, and burning treatments are planned for late 2002.

Springer Fire: The Springer Fire is a human caused fire that was detected at 12:46 pm on May 14, 2002 on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. The fire origin is located just south of the Blue Ridge Urban Interface planning boundary, approximately 7 miles north of Clint's Well, Arizona.

During the first hour of the fire, the fire was held to five acres. Increasing winds and individual tree crowning contributed to numerous spot fires, which caused very rapid spread of the fire. The fire jumped State Highway 87, and began to move northeast toward Clear Creek Pines Units 3 and 7, as well as burn block #2 of the Blue Ridge Urban Interface project. Burn block #2 was burned under prescription in February 2002. Fire behavior prior to reaching the treated area included spotting $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile ahead of the fire, with active crowning. Fire suppression efforts were limited to flanking activity. As the fire hit the treated burn block #2, active crown fire ceased. Spotting did occur in burn block #2 into pine needles and fuels left for wildlife habitat and long-term soil productivity.

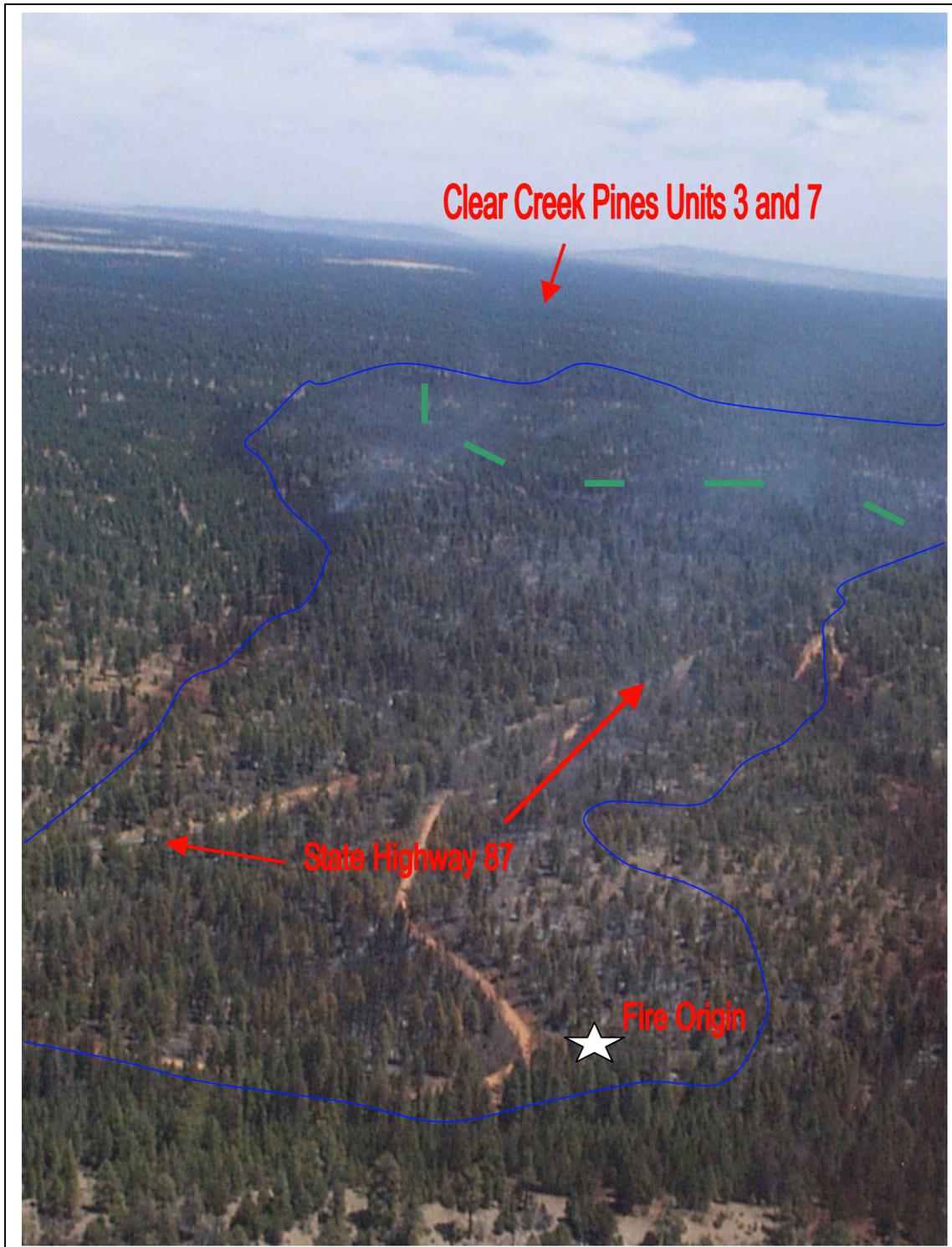
The reduction in fire intensity and rate of spread enabled the suppression resources to get around the head of the fire and contain the fire safely, approximately 1 mile from Clear Creek Pines Units 3 and 7. Estimate of containment of the fire is on May 17, at 6:00 pm. Suppression costs for the Springer Fire are estimated to be \$1.4 million dollars.

Clear Creek Pines Units 3 and 7: Clear Creek Pines Units 3 and 7 is a 240 acre subdivision located in Coconino County, Arizona. The unit currently contains 150 homes, with a mix of both primary residences and second homes. Approximate average value of the homes is \$150,000, or approximately \$22.5 million in real estate value.



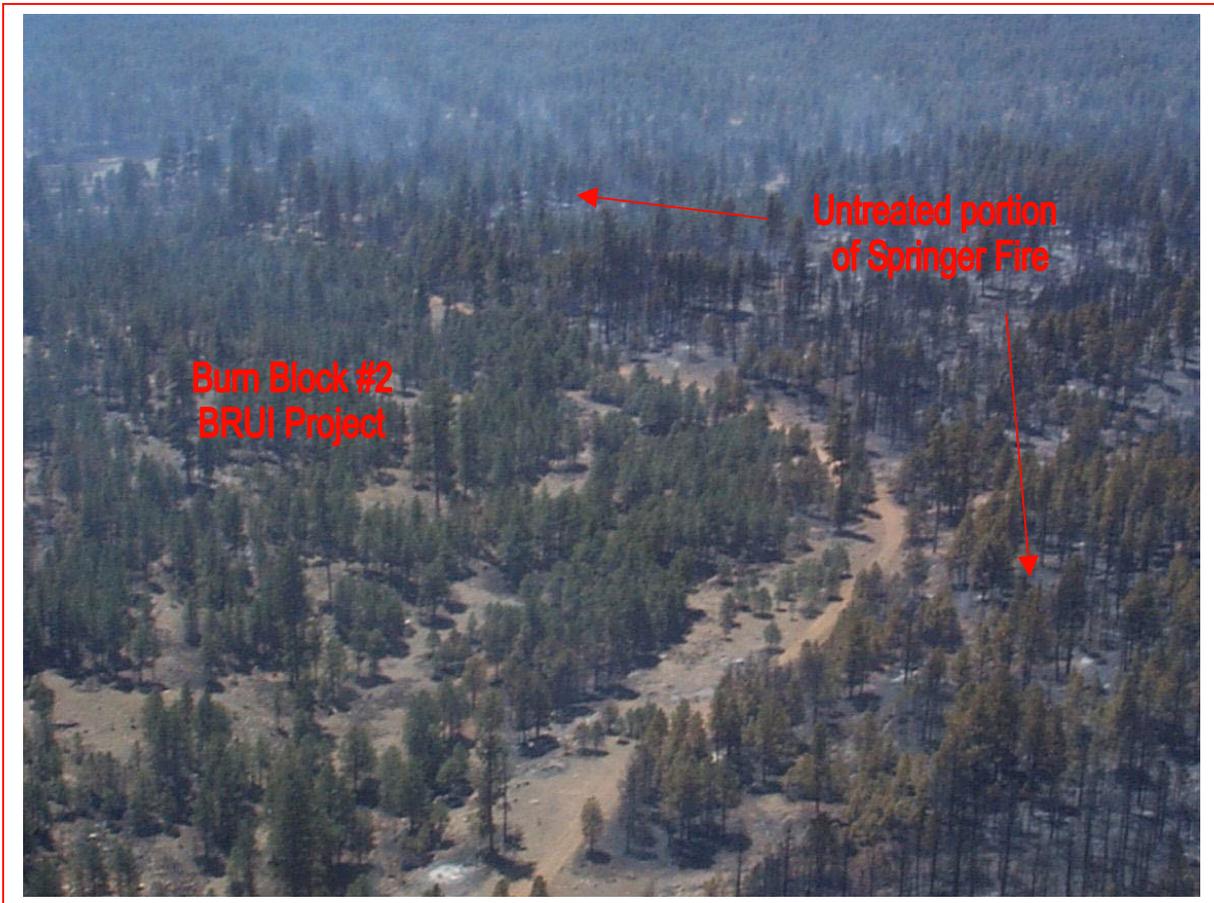
Map of the Blue Ridge Urban Interface Project and the Springer Fire.
 Note: this map does not contain all of the blocks that have been accomplished to date or all of the blocks in the Project. It only displays the blocks that are adjacent to Clear Creek Pines Units 3 and 7.

Blue Ridge Urban Interface Project and the Springer Fire



Aerial view looking northeast from the head of the fire towards Clear Creek Pines Units 3 and 7. The blue line is the fire perimeter. The green dashed line is the boundary of Blue Ridge Urban Interface Project Burn Block #2.

Blue Ridge Urban Interface Project and the Springer Fire



Aerial view of change in fire behavior created by the change in fuel loading from the February, 2002 Rx Burn on the Blue Ridge Urban Interface Project (BRUI). Note the difference in fire intensity and subsequent damage to the untreated site compared to Burn Block #2. Within the burn block, the fire behavior was decreased due to a lack of surface fuel, as well as a slight increase in the height of the canopy from heating from the broadcast burn in burn block #2.

Blue Ridge Urban Interface Project and the Springer Fire



View from within Blue Ridge Urban Interface (BRUI) Burn Block #2 into the untreated portion of the Springer Fire. Note the needlecast, sprouting western yarrow and western wheatgrass in the immediate foreground. The black in the midground is a spot fire into Arizona Fescue grass, still within Burn Block #2. The background is in the untreated portion of the Springer fire. Note that the background was a crown fire, the midground was a surface fire, and that the foreground did not burn at all.