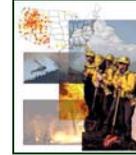


Kootenai County, Idaho is fast becoming



With a \$1.9 million National Fire Plan grant and the help of local and state firefighting agencies, about 2,000 homeowners will receive free hazardous fuels reduction work during the next 3 years.



Larry Isenberg, FireSmart Project Manager, tells Peggy Polichio, Fire Management Officer for Idaho Panhandle National Forests about his progress.

- 3 In July, 2002, the program's first month, over 50 homeowners living in the forested mountains east of Coeur d'Alene had their property "cleaned and greened."
- 3 In exchange for the work, homeowners must agree to maintain their property in FireSmart condition for the next 10 years.
- 3 Over 200 properties in Kootenai County are currently in the pipeline for fuels reduction.
- 3 Idaho Department of State Lands has awarded National Fire Plan grants for over 13,000 acres of hazardous fuels reduction on forested private lands within the state.