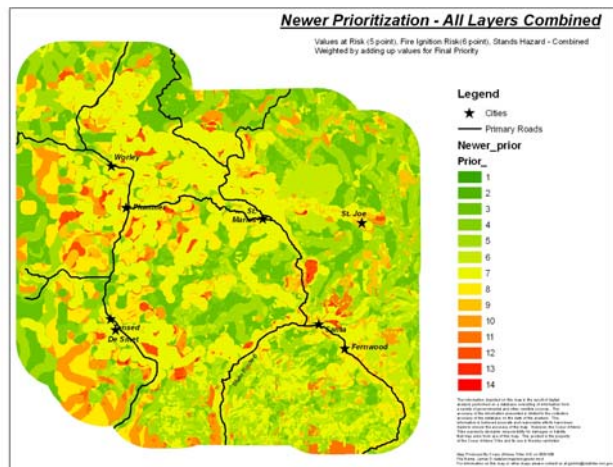


Coeur D'Alene Tribe Cooperative Fuels Treatment Project

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe has taken the lead in developing a cooperative project that includes two Counties, six Federal and two State land management agencies, and four major land owners within the reservation boundaries and Benewah County. Seven Tribal departments are also involved in the project. The objective of the project is to develop a method of prioritizing the hazard fuels reduction projects regardless of ownership so that the potential for catastrophic wildfire is reduced while the critical resource, cultural, and social values receive proper consideration. Once the prioritization is set then there will be an effort to seek funding through the various channels to address the highest priority sites first.



The cooperators (over 17) met to develop the rating system for various social, cultural and natural resources to be used in prioritizing the treatment areas. The preliminary plan is expected to be completed by October 2006. None of the existing models seemed to do a good job of including the identified variables of this type of project. Therefore, there is a need to develop an analysis tool that will better address the special, social and cultural needs this project has identified.

The key inputs identified by the group were, values at risk, fire ignition risk, and stand hazard risks. For each input a rating scale was established and mapped for the group to review. By combining the inputs as layer coverages, it was possible to come up with a final prioritization. After several initial attempts the group was able to suggest ways to tweak the inputs to separate the combined hazard assessment.

The objective is to identify the highest needs for hazard fuel reduction for the entire area for a 10 year period and develop a process to define individual projects on an annual basis. By working from the highest priority down to the lowest we should be able to apply funds in a logical manner. This will become a dynamic tool where we can input the areas already treated or harvested to adjust the plans for future years. Although this will allow treatments to proceed in a priority order there is no guarantee that fires will occur in the order suggested.

Contact: Eric Geisler, Fuels Forester, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, 208-686-5030