

National Fire Plan

Education/Community Assistance

Idaho

2003



A couple of years ago, residents of the Rivers Point Subdivision in Garden Valley, Idaho watched a fire run up the mountain across the South Fork of the Payette River from their homes and cabins. They also knew there was a strip of public land between them and the river below; a strip of land where anglers and rafters occasionally stopped and built campfires or warming fires.

Aware of the potential for wildfire to threaten their subdivision, residents began working around their property to clean it up and make it more resistant to the threat from fire. Then, pursuing their efforts further, the president of the homeowners association contacted the Lower Snake River District BLM for educational materials. Subsequently, Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist Randy Eardley attended the subdivision's annual association membership meeting June 19.

Approximately 30 homeowners attended the meeting and gained an enhanced knowledge of wildfire behavior, home ignition causes related to wildfire and how to prevent them, suppression requirements and capabilities, and more. Several residents took advantage of an offer for individual property assessments following the meeting.

The following day, a fire crew from the Lower Snake River District worked alongside homeowners and assisted them in thinning some tree stands near structures, trimming and removing brush in hazardous locations, cleaning pine needle accumulations from roofs and rain gutters, and general cleanup.

While some work remains to be done, and completed work needs to be maintained, the result of this educational effort and cleanup partnership is that one subdivision is far down the road toward being a fire-safe community, with homes, cabins, and structures better able to withstand a wildfire.



Jessica Gardetto, a fire information officer at the Lower Snake River District, stand in front of a large slash pile created by homeowners in the River's Point Subdivision in Garden Valley, Idaho from debris cleaned up around their property and neighborhood. A fire crew worked alongside homeowners one weekend to help thin, trim, and haul away vegetation in an effort to reduce the risk of loss to wildfire.

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