

# N ational Fire Plan

H azardous Fuels R eduction

B ig H orn N ational Forest

W yom ing

2003



The D itch C reek Fire started M onday July 21, 2003 approxin ately five m iles southw est of Story, W yom ing. The lightning caused fire grew from 70 to 250 acres in one afternoon. The fire burned in continuous lodgepole pine which extends all the way to Story. Story residents were concerned the fire would reach their town; fortunately it did not, this time! But through the N ational Fire Plan, they are doing som ething to reduce the threat of wildfire to their homes and reducing the risk to fire fighters w ho m ay be called upon to protect them .

The Story Fire D istrict applied for state grants funded by the N ational Fire Plan and contacted w ith a private firm to develop a m itigation plan nam ed the Story W ildfire A ssessm ent and M itigation Plan (SW AM P). One of the first SW AM P projects, besides public education initiatives, w as the construction of a 300 ft-w ide, 2 m ile long fuelbreak w est of town. The shaded fuelbreak (show n above) is 40 percent com plete. W yom ing Sawm ills of Sheridan is w orking w ith the landow ners to do the thinning. The project w ill be com pleted in 2004.

The B ighorn N ational Forest is also w orking w ith Story on the N ational Forest adjacent to the Town and has developed the Story Fuels Project. The Story Fuels Project on the Tongue Ranger D istrict is also funded by the N ational Fire Plan, and w ill treat over 600 acres adjacent to the town. The contract to thin sm all trees and brush is currently being prepared and w ill open for bid soon.

For additional inform ation on the N ational Fire Plan, visit [www .fireplan.gov](http://www.fireplan.gov)