

# National Fire Plan

## Yellow Pine Wildland Interface Project

### Idaho 2002



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***“Controlled burning and thinning must be done together around here to make the project effective,”*** said Nancy Richter, local owner of the Yellow Pine General Store

Yellow Pine, a small isolated community located about 100 miles north of Boise, Idaho. that has historically seen plenty of wildfire activity nearby and is aware of the future potential threat is the recipient of National Fire Plan benefits.

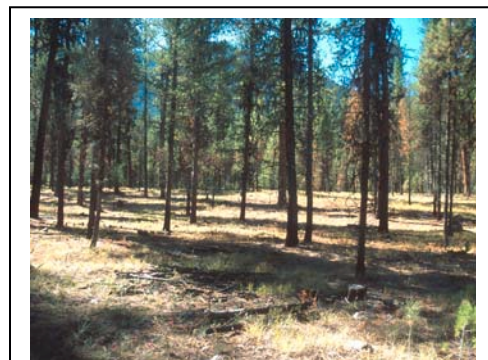


***Community of Yellow Pine after hazardous fuels reduction treatments.***

The Cascade Ranger District of the Boise National Forest has implemented five projects immediately adjacent to the southern city limits since 1998, and additional projects are planned elsewhere around the community. Project activities included thinning small diameter trees (8” and less), pruning larger trees, hand piling thinned material as well as downed woody material, pile burning and broadcast burning. As of late summer 2002 nearly 130 acres have been treated. An additional project called West Side Yellow Pine is in the planning stage. It will expand defensible space around the community



***Ponderosa pine thinned with piles ready for fall burning.***



***Project completed - thinned ponderosa pine forest after piles were burned.***

The project is a joint effort between the Payette National Forest and the Boise National Forest. Called the “Greater Yellow Pine Protection Project” the combined project will treat areas with prescribed burning, thinning and harvesting of some material to reduce fire threats and restore

the forest to a more natural condition. True to the community's name, ponderosa pine is the dominant tree species in the area, which has been impacted by thick stands of fire sensitive species.

In addition, 44 residents have signed up for incentive programs to reduce fuels immediately adjacent to their properties with about half already completing the work. Although initial community support was lukewarm to the proposals they have shown a significant positive response to the efforts of the state and federal agencies.

Nancy Richter, local owner of the Yellow Pine General Store, is all for the work that has been done. "It is a big improvement, both visually and from the fire reduction standpoint," she said. "What would be nice is to have a product for the cut trees but maybe that will come someday." She added that the coordination with the Idaho Department of Lands who supplied funds to help property owners thin trees was excellent. "It is looking beautiful around town, people are thinning out their smaller trees and it makes it look like a park." She said any smoke from the pile burning has not impacted residents. Her biggest concern is the level of dying trees remaining in untreated areas due to bark beetles. "Those areas desperately need to be done," she added. "Controlled burning and thinning must be done together around here to make the project effective," she added.



*This site is now ready for future maintenance using low intensity prescribed fire.*