

Devastating Wildfires ↓ Helping Communities Respond

USDA Forest Service ↓ State and Private Forestry ↓ National Fire Plan
2002

Forest Service helps Montana's fire-impacted communities reduce hazardous fuels

- 3 · Congress recognized the impact of the 2000 fire season and targeted this program to reduce risks in affected communities.
- 3 · Impacted communities took action and became models for those that have not experienced wildfire.
- 3 · National Forests and the state facilitate community-driven projects in the wildland urban interface.
- 3 · We coordinated efforts across multiple land ownerships for maximum results.
- 3 · We granted \$830,000 through Montana's State Forester in 2001. These multi-year grants are well on the way to completion.



Bob Moses's property, near Lost Horse Creek, before and after treatment.

Bitterroot National Forest is helping 41 local landowners reduce fuels on 850 acres with just \$200 thousand of National Fire Plan funding. The land is home to 750 residents. *"It's been a wonderful experience so far,"* said landowner Bob Moses. Moses started becoming aware of hazardous fuels in 1999, when he thinned 5 acres surrounding his house. In 2000, a small fire started just a mile west of his 40-acre property, and his family was evacuated. Luckily, with all of the resources in the area at the time, the fire was quickly extinguished. But the experience raised his awareness of the problem's urgency. The cost share funding he received helped him accelerate the treatment of the rest of his property. Moses likes the way the Hazardous Fuels Reduction program was structured in the Bitterroot Valley, to encourage the personal involvement and investment of landowners.

"I've done most of the work myself...It's nice to become educated by going through this process...to become a good steward of my land." ~Bitterroot Valley Landowner, Bob Moses