



National Fire Plan

Cave Bay Community Cooperative Fuels Project

The Cave Bay community, located along a lakeshore in Northern Idaho, was at high risk for impact by wildland fire due to steep terrain with dense stands of timber and brush, and closely spaced structures on 220 lots. A number of cooperators have been working to mitigate the risk, including: Kootenai County Fire Smart, Cave Bay Community Services, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, private landowners, and numerous contractors.



Before Treatment

break along the Reservation boundary. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe agreed to participate with the other collaborators, donating land for the fuel break, developing treatment plans, and providing the bulk of the funding and treatment work for the project. Cave Bay Community Services contacted landowners, encouraged participation and tracked interest in the project. Landowners contributed by taking ownership of their fuel problem; they attended public meetings, participated individually, had personal contracts, and a personal investment. And the contractors, operating from a rotating list, donated some time to put the finishing touches on several of their projects.



After Treatment

By collaborating with so many parties, the Cave Bay community has substantially reduced its risk for a destructive wildland fire. Having the capacity to leverage funds from so many sources allowed for greater results, including recently initiating the application process for recognition as a Firewise community.

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