

National Fire Plan County and Forest Service Neighborhood Partnership Nevada 2002



The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest personnel are working in close cooperation with Washoe County Parks and Recreation and private homeowners to improve fire preparedness and safety in the “Sierra Front” area west of Reno, Nev. Washoe County voters passed a bond measure to provide access to National Forest lands a few years ago but there was a concern with the potential threat of trailside wildfire starts in two canyons near homes. In order to mitigate some of the hazardous fuels concerns, the Whites Creek project was launched last year. Homeowners have stepped to the plate by reducing fuels around their homes and the Forest Service has taken the effort further by thinning dense brush stands in a mosaic pattern in the "defense zone" near the homes. Forest employees are also constructing fuelbreaks along ridges by creating large cleared and natural openings to allow for more effective use of air tankers and helicopters as well as providing better and safer access for firefighters.



Dense stands of mountain mahogany (100 percent canopy closure) slow the progress of cutting by fire crews. In some areas the brush may have as many as 1000 stems per acre.