

National Fire Plan Community Assistance Montana 2003



Living on the Edge – FireSMART Wagon

Informing the public about creating defensible space, the values of prescribed fire and the natural role of fire in our forested lands has just become a little easier—thanks to a new mobile unit called the “Living on the Edge—FireSMART Wagon.”

This 16-foot, one-stop information center on wheels was the brainstorm of Bitterroot National Forest fire prevention technicians Sonja Shadow and Tanya Neidhardt, and Bitterroot Resource and Conservation Development (RC&D) volunteer coordinator Becky Linderman. Shadow and Neidhardt found an affordable trailer, and then the team began working on the exterior. The project was funded by a \$30,000 National Fire Plan “Living with Fire” grant from the State & Private Forestry program (S&PF).

The FireSMARTWagon will help share proactive ideas with current and new landowners on how to reduce their risks from wildland fires. It will also increase the opportunity to expand the understanding of the forest’s fire-dependant ecosystems.

The colorful, eye-catching artwork of renowned artist Monte Dolack and bright text on the wagon was designed to entice the curiosity of nearby onlookers. The wagon will travel to schools, fairs, workshops, and prescribed and wildland fires, coordinated through the RC&D.



Folks checking out the new “Living on the Edge – Fire Works Wagon.”
Recently changed to the FireSMART Wagon.

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For additional information on the National Fire Plan, visit www.fireplan.gov